Daily Report

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Cuba

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez To Travel to PRC

FL2006220991 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, will conduct an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 1 to 7 July. This past May a delegation of the Chinese Communist Party visited Cuba to strengthen fraternal ties between the two countries.

Six Provinces Fulfill Sugar Production Plans

FL2106114791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] It was announced during the third plenary meeting of the National Sugar Industry Workers Union [SNTA] that six provinces have fulfilled the sugar production plans set for this year's sugar harvest. This meeting, which was held at the Camilo Cienfuegos Agroindustrial Complex in Havana Province, gave a good evaluation to the attitude of the sugar workers, who were able to improve in spite of the difficulties. The report, presented by SNTA Secretary General Manuel Cordero, was a critical analysis of the deficiencies that limited the production of raw sugar at some mills. The plenary meeting stressed the need to make good repairs and fulfill the weeding and planting plans. Minister of the Sugar Industry Juan Herrera stated the following.

[Begin Herrera recording] The provinces which succeeded in fulfilling their plans and growing were Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus. They fulfilled their plans and grew. The provinces that fulfilled their plans but did not grow were Las Tunas, Holguin, Santiago de Cuba, and Guantanamo. The provinces that did not fulfill their plans but did grow—I should have said these second—were Matanzas and Cienfuegos. Matanzas and Cienfuegos. [repeats] Those that did not fulfill their plans and did not grow were Pinar del Rio, Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, and Granma. That is how we group the provinces for this sugar harvest. Pardon me, and Havana, which did not fulfill its plan and did not grow. There are five provinces in that group. [end recording]

Jaime Crombet Encourages Quality Management

FL2106021791 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Jaime Crombret Hernandez-Baquero, Politburo member and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has said in Bayamo that the nation cannot afford to have any administrators who are lacking in responsibility, who can be easily tricked, are crooks or fools, steal, or let others steal from them.

During a meeting to study gastronomy and service industry reforms in Gramma Province, he also congratulated the province for the accomplishments achieved since his last visit, and urged all present to strive for the right to host the central activity celebrating their day. Crombet characterized the so-called honor-system accounting as a tropical invention because there is only one true form of accounting—the right way.

He added, all administrators beware: if you fail to maintain efficient accounting, you cannot continue in your post.

Salinas To Visit Soviet Union 3, 4 Jul

PA2106032891 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0208 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Report by Agustin Granados]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will visit the Soviet Union on 3 and 4 July. The objective of his visit is to strengthen bilateral relations and sign cooperation agreements. According to Soviet Ambassasdor to Mexico Oleg Darusenkov, Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev are new style political leaders who are appropriate for the current international situation and their meeting promises to be interesting because of the situation our two societies are experiencing. [Begin Darusenkov recording] What our two countries are seeking, is namely to change our society. How? By modernizing the economy and making our societies more democratic. [end recording]

Darusenkov hosted a news conference to comment on Salinas' visit to the Soviet Union in July. He noted that at the end of the visit, the two presidents will sign four cooperation agreements: on natural disaster and civilian protection; on the peaceful use of outer space; against drug trafficking; and on the accreditation of academic degrees. Mexico and the Soviet Union are already cooperating with each other, the envoy said. The Aguamilpa hydroelectric plant has Soviet-made turbines, and Mexican technicians are modernizing a refinery in Azerbaijan. The ambassador explained that the visit will serve to increase bilateral exchange, although in realistic terms, Mexico can never become the USSR's first client and vice versa.

Navy Chief on Modernization, Antidrug Operations

PA1906184091 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Text] Navy Secretary Admiral Luis Carlos Ruano Angulo met this morning with reporters and talked about surveillance in Mexican waters and the Navy's modernization. The admiral said that the number of drug trafficking activities in Mexican waters has decreased to a bare minimum thanks to the efforts of the Mexican Navy.

[Begin Ruano recording] The Gulf of Mexico and the Yucatan Canal were the most popular areas of operation for drug trafficking activities until approximately six or seven months ago. I can now state that this has ended. [end recording]

Admiral Ruano said that drug traffickers have now changed their routes to the Pacific, where the Mexican Navy has stepped up its surveillance operations.

The Navy Secretary gave a news conference to commemorate freedom of expression and he reasserted that the Navy is being modernized and renewed just like the government.

[Begin Ruano recording] ...to consolidate the fulfillment of our constitutional duties, guarantee the nation's security, and protect the national sovereignty. [as heard] [end recording]

He said that the Navy's modernization will include the construction of four modern ships to strengthen its activities. One of the ships began to operate on 1 June and three older boats will be refurbished with helicopter landing platforms to increase their areas of action in three areas: Veracruz, Coatzacoalcos, and Tampico.

He also said that the Mexican Navy will renew all of its support and maintenance machinery. Admiral Ruano said that violations of territorial waters have decreased 90 percent in recent months. The seizure of boats caught without fishing permits in exclusive Mexican economic zones has increased despite the presence of 147 boats and support airplanes and helicopters, which will also participate in commercial operations with their strategic surveillance over territorial waters.

* Business Sector Role in PRI Finances Viewed

* Activities Surveyed

91CA01524 Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 758, 13 May 91 pp 17, 19-21

[Report by Pascal Beltran del Rio]

[Text] "Austerity without limitations" is what PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] has imposed on itself as a result of its most recent national assembly, the explicit purpose being to shed light on the origins of its financing and to make its expenditures commensurate with the country's economic situation.

In an attempt to dispel doubts about its purported independence from the public till, the party has jettisoned all cutbacks and decided to collect the long-standing debts that it claims Mexican private enterprise owe it. Businessmen should pay something back to the party of the revolution so that it can defray the costs of this year's election campaigns and "develop its own patrimony for the future."

Thus, a good many of the country's leading businessmen are directly involved in PRI campaigns (for the time being the ones being conducted to win seven state governorships) by providing human and material resources after a formal request was made to them. According to the opposition, this financing strategy is merely a "screen" to conceal "PRI's true designs," which are "to continue depending on public funds."

The new financial provisions went into effect last 3 January, along with other resolutions of the 14th Assembly, at least on paper. As part of the organizational overhaul, Alfredo Baranda Garcia took over as finance secretary of the national PRI leadership. The former acting governor of the state of Mexico, former ambassador to the Spain, and last director of the parastate firm Telefonos de Mexico asserted that he would put the party's finances in order and expand sources of funding.

This past 13 March Baranda declared: "The Institutional Revolutionary Party is not bankrupt but it needs more funds to cover its activities and to sponsor its candidates' election campaigns." At a forum on micro-industry organized by the National Union of Former CNOP [National

Confederation of Popular Organizations] Members (UNE), he also said that PRI was in the process of creating "bodies in charge of raising funds" to "successfully back the campaigns of gubernatorial candidates in seven states, the 300 who will run for single-member district federal deputy seats, and the 32 who will be seeking the seats that are up for election in the Senate."

An almost immediate result was the formation of state financing committees in Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Colima, Campeche, Sonora, and Nuevo Leon (states that will elect new governors this year); these committees will be composed of and chaired by the wealthiest businessmen in each of these states and even some of national stature. The exception so far has been Guanajuato, where business support for former nomination hopeful Miguel Montes has not yet translated into financial aid for candidate Ramon Aguirre.

After the democratic unveilings and experiments in March were over, Baranda visited the first four states mentioned above, where after holding private meetings with local businessmen, he formed the ruling party's financing committees. The four were divided into identical commissions: raffles and drawings, social and athletic events, regional fairs, management and promotion, fund-raising and donations. In Sonora and Nuevo Leon the sponsorship groups organized without the direct intervention of the PRI treasurer.

Besides being rich, the businessmen who are involved in the PRI campaigns were, in many cases, open opponents of the governments until a few years ago. Today they are organizing drawings, bullfights, dinners, and concerts to raise funds for PRI, which in this election year will receive 40 billion pesos by legal right.

Beltrones the Generous

The campaign in Sonora is saying no to the ruling party's austerity. Our correspondent in Hermosillo, Ramon Alfonso Sallard, reports that the one month of electioneering by PRI's gubernatorial candidate, Manlio Fabio Beltrones, has been characterized by ostentation and outlays of hundreds of millions of pesos a day. To date, Beltrones has arranged to have himself accompanied on his trips by some 50 reporters, cameramen, photographers, and feature writers, as well as by a like number of special guests, all with their expenses paid.

As for transportation, the candidate has two busses and several other vehicles available. In addition, he has chartered two planes (a 24-seat two-engine Grumma 01 and an Aerocommander 690) for the five-month campaign. The aircraft were chartered from the company Taesa, which is run by Miguel Abed, who also owns Aviacion del Noroeste. According to a pilot we consulted who works for this latter company, a Grumma 01 rents for more than $1,000 an hour. According to the pilot's story, for certain tours (Ciudad Obregon, Cananea, Agua Prieta, and San Luis Rio Colorado) up to 24 air shuttles have been chartered, their rents ranging from 200,000 up to 800,000 pesos an hour. Beltrones even has his own flight controller.

Speaking through its state leader, Ramon Corral Avila, and gubernatorial candidate, Moises Canale Rodriguez, the National Action Party (PAN) says that Beltrones will spend slightly more than 50 billion pesos during the first stage. It has even said, but without providing evidence, that the PRI campaign committee has more than 6,000 persons on its payroll.

In one of his first acts after his unveiling, Manlio Fabio Beltrones set up a sponsorship group to raise funds for his campaign. The group is in charge of organizing a raffle that will reportedly raise some 8 billion pesos for PRI. Among its members are: Guatimoc Yberri, the Pepsi Cola dealer in Hermosillo; Alberto Gaxiola Laveaga, a businessman farmer; Marco Antonio Llano Zaragoza and Ernesto Zaragoza Yberri, who own the MZ supermarket chain; and Ricardo Mazon Lizarraga, the campaign financing coordinator, who has served as a liaison with Sonora businessmen and belongs to the powerful Mazon family, which owns farmland, industries, and stores that bear its name, among many other businesses.

Mazon has organized financing committees in all of the state's municipalities, and a total of 76 well-known figures, mainly businessmen, sit on them. The Hermosillo financing committee, for example, is divided into 24 commissions, including the assembly-plant, horse-racing, and beer-distribution commissions. Juan Antonio de la Puente Bay chairs the industrialists commission; Felix Canella, the Volkswagen dealer, the car-distributorship commission; Armando Araujo, the president of the local Chamber of Commerce, the commerce commission; and Juan Manuel Mancillas, from Operadora de Bolsa, the stock-market commission, among others.

PAN [National Action Party] member Ramon Corral Avila, a former vice president of Coparmex [Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic], says that many businessmen are being pressured into donating money to PRI. Even so, PAN expects to raise money among certain Sonora businessmen to pay for its campaign, which it says will cost around 1.6 billion pesos.

Queretaro was the second state in which a PRI financing committee was set up with business support. This past 10 April, Alfredo Baranda swore in as its chairman Roberto Ruiz Rubio, the owner of the accounting firm Servicios del Centro. Other magnates who are on the committee, the press office of candidate Enrique Burgos' campaign reported, are rancher Javier Garfias, Alfredo Abud Martinez, the regional manager of Probursa, and bullfight impresario Nicolas Gonzalez Rivas, besides Claudio X. Gonzalez, the main shareholder of Kimberly Clark and adviser to the Office of President of the Republic.

Then came Colima, where Baranda met with a group of businessmen in the America Hotel in the state capital. There the PRI finance secretary spoke of reorganizing the party's finances "to create a patrimony for it."

Ignacio Vaquero Landaverde, a Tecoman agroindustrialist, was named chairman of the financing committee, which includes prominent members of the rural bourgeoisie in the state, many of them with a public reputation

of being linked to the ultra-Catholic organization "Tecos." Among others there are: citrus fruit grower Federico Gudino Novoa; ranchers Arturo Valencia Lopez and Alfredo Rocha Contreras; businessmen farmers Mario Diaz Rizo, Sergio Orozco Tena, Juan Pinto Velasco, and Victor Manuel Moreno Gomez; Guillermo Saucedo de la Torre, the former treasurer under Griselda Alvarez' administration, and the owner of a chain of photographic-equipment stores, and Crescencio Virgen, an aluminum and glass industrialist. Almost all of them have investments in real estate, a well-known and growing area of financial speculation in Colima.

Interviewed over the phone, Vaquero Landaverde said that "as a first goal" the committee intends to raise 500 million pesos. He reported that the first event would be a drawing for a Cadillac, for which 100 numbers were sold at 3 million pesos each. The raffle will take place on 17 May during a dinner for candidate Carlos de la Madrid Virgen, who defeated Deputy Socorro Diaz in a primary election. "There is great eagerness to take part in the activities," Ignacio Vaquero asserted. "Here they did not impose the candidate on us, as happened in other states; here the people chose him."

Socrates, All the Money

The other state in which PRI resorted to primaries was Nuevo Leon. Correspondent Luis Angel Garza reports that there the campaign of PRI candidate Socrates Rizzo Garcia was shored up by a variety of well-known figures linked to Monterrey's big corporate groups: Humberto Lobo from PROTEXA; Lorenzo Zambrano from CEMEX; Javier Garza Calderon from GENTOR; Guillermo Zambrano from METALSA; Othon Ruiz Montemayor from VISA; Jorge Lankenau from ABACO; Policarpo Elizondo from ALFA and VAMSA; Eugenio Clariond Reyes from IMSA; David Garza Laguera from Cigarrera La Moderna and VISA; Jose Maiz Garcia from the Maiz Mier construction firm....

This past 16 April all of them were brought into the PRI campaign as members of a finance committee whose purpose, it was proclaimed, is to raise the funds needed to finance Rizzo's activities. In an interview Guillermo Zambrano explained: "There have been sincere changes in PRI since the 14th Assembly, and this is why we are prepared to risk this."

The recruitment of the businessmen is attributed to Jorge Arrambide, one of the private-sector executives whom Socrates Rizzo managed to lure into the ruling party when he was still mayor of Monterrey. From a second-level post in the Monterrey city council, Arrambide, who for many years stood out for his persistent criticism of the government when he was president of the Manufacturing Industry Association of Nuevo Leon, moved on to the PRI campaign as coordinator of special events. As such, on 9 April he proclaimed that bringing industrialists into PRI was one of his main goals. Another account, reported by the daily paper EL NORTE of Monterrey, is that the committee was formed in Mexico City, where Monterrey businessmen held a meeting with PRI leader Luis Donaldo Colosio, at which Finance Secretary Pedro Aspe, as a PRI activist, asked them for their cooperation.

The business sector's change in political position, a change that became consolidated during this 6-year term, has been reflected in conflicts among representative bodies. CAINTRA [Nuevo Leon Chamber of the Conversion Industry], CANACO [Mexico City National Chamber of Commerce], and the Employers Center, which used to constantly criticize the administration's performance, have become supporters and softened their attacks. The Council of Nuevo Leon Institutions (CINLAC), to which they all belong, together with many civic groups, has, in contrast, hewed to its critical line. Recently, Othon Ruiz Montemayor, the general manager of VISA and then president of CAINTRA, proposed that the latter withdraw from CINLAC. The National Council of Foreign Trade plans to do likewise, and its president, Jose Trevino Salinas, has just been nominated a PRI candidate for federal deputy.

Manuel Espinosa Yglesias, Carlos Abedrop, and Antonio Ariza, who are heavyweight businessmen too, accompanied Alfredo Baranda in establishing the PRI financing committee in San Luis Potosi on 29 April. In that state capital Baranda asserted that "since Mexico is in a period of economic adjustments...PRI has implemented saving money as a measure." The PRI leader met with a group of local businessmen, who joined the financing committee the next day.

Its chairman, Juan Hernandez de los Santos, the owner of the company that makes Coronado rompopo and jelly, sounds out of place when he says that the funds that the committee is raising will not be earmarked for the campaign of PRI candidate Fausto Zapata. "At least this is not the plan," he says over the phone; "the idea is to gradually build up a patrimony for the party. This is a job that could take us several years." When asked what the fund-raising targets are, the former local congressman remarks that they have not yet been set and that the committee will not have its first official meeting until this week.

Also on the committee are: Roberto Garcia Navarro, the owner of Chicles Canel's and Dulces Ultra, who is currently building a shopping center in San Luis Potosi and is one of the potential buyers of the reprivatized Banco del Centro; Carlos Lopez Medina, a partner of Garcia Navarro and a wealthy housing developer; Jose Morales Reyes, the owner of local TV channel 13, a distributor of Esso oils, and a manufacturer of poles for the National Electricity Commission, and Constantino Villalobos, the former owner of Bancen and a real-estate investor.

Guanajuato, the Exception

In Campeche the financing committee was set up on 26 April, in the presence of Alfredo Baranda. It is chaired by Enrique Castilla Goyta, a businessman who does not have much of a name but is a lifelong colleague of PRI candidate Jorge Salomon Azar Garcia. Other members are: Carlos Lavalle Azar, the owner of shrimp vessels and real estate; Fernando Sadek Abud, who owns electrical-equipment repair shops and stores; Roger Patron, a restaurateur,

graduate of the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Advanced Studies; Salomon Azar, and Gabriel Escalante, a road builder.

Salomon Azar's campaign is being conducted to the rhythm of "rap" in a bid to attract the youth vote with slogans like "the candidate of today" and "Campeche the winner." So far, however, the advertising campaign has turned out to be a bad business. On the day that the financing committee was established, Benjamin Azar Garcia, the candidate's brother, organized a concert by the group "Timbiriche" in the local baseball stadium. Although the event attracted 10,000 persons, the take was 30 percent less than expenses. Therefore, Rosa Maria Martinez Denegri and Marcos Curmina Buenfil, the candidates of the PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution] and the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] respectively, think that PRI's financing strategies "merely conceal its desire to keep on living off the budget."

Where there seems to be no strategy is in Guanajuato. As an exception to the rule, PRI has been unable to bring together business support for its campaign there. Before the unveiling, a group of businessmen from Leon, Celaya, and Irapuato was formed, and it handed over 100 million pesos to the then state president of PRI, Miguel Montes, and offered to raise 50 times that amount. Once Ramon Aguirre was named the candidate, the promises came to naught. Among the generous businessmen were: Eduardo Bujaidor, a Leon restaurateur; Salvador Onate, the owner of the gas companies that supply the city; and Guillermo Nieto Almeida, a Celaya businessman.

Placed in charge of the PRI campaign's finances was Arturo Sanchez Hernandez, a school chum of Ramon Aguirre's and a National Lottery concessionaire in Guanajuato. One of Sanchez Hernandez' missions is to secure donations from businessmen, but so far he has had no success. Alfredo Baranda did not even visit the state, instead sending his subordinate, Pedro Armando Gomez, reported Leonel Chamichar, the deputy coordinator of campaign administration and finance.

Perhaps to remedy this situation PRI nominated prominent businessmen Roberto Suarez Nieto and Mauricio Clark Ovadia as its candidates for senator and single-member district federal deputy.

* Garrido Cites Antecedents

91CA0152B Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 May 91 p 6

[Luis Javier Garrido commentary: "The Public Statements of Private Interests"]

[Text] PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] has historically been a party of State not only a) because it was created from the summit of the State to maintain, not gain power, b) because it is the political representative of an antidemocratic "system" that denies Mexican citizens the chance to elect their authorities freely, or c) because the party's apparatus blends in with those of the federal, state, and municipal governments and state-run agencies and enterprises, but also, of course, because d) its material and human resources have throughout its history come mainly from the State.

Government financing of PRI is not, of course, its only trait as a State organization, but it has been one of the most significant. And both because it conceals the fact that the huge costs of the party apparatus are borne by the public till and because it is less of a burden on the national budget to maintain what has become one of the linchpins of its political agenda, ever since the 1950's the government has adopted the practice of having various private groups provide some of the financing for the party and its campaigns. Moreover, this policy has allowed the government to strengthen its ties to private sector groups by portraying the official agenda as the agenda of business groups. PRI kept itself going "with the money of the rich," as General Agustin Olachea Aviles, the chairman of PRI's National Executive Committee (CEN), used to say in 1956.

The practice of having candidates for elected office individually seek private financing for their campaigns spread strikingly in the 1950's and 1960's, thus creating a sort of commitment among those who made it into the chambers, municipal offices, or governorships thanks to the financial backing of certain business groups and their interests, particularly because this was a shady relationship. The populist options of the 1970's helped to constrain this practice, however, as private enterprise was increasingly reluctant to support governments that did not always pursue the policies that in their judgment were best. The "new PRI," in spite of the risks, has tried, however, to revive this practice in 1991, albeit with certain variations, and thus some remarks are in order.

1) By maintaining the system of public financing of parties that was established in 1977, the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures (COFIPE) of 1990 did not create the conditions for the equitable, transparent financing of the parties. Thus, it has helped PRI to keep on concealing the state origin of its funding, the huge amount of which no study has yet estimated.

2) By institutionally reviving in 1991 the policy of raising funds from private companies for PRI campaigns, the Salinas regime is after the same goals as in 1956: a) To camouflage the enormous amount of public financing for the party, and b) To share expenses with those who are the main beneficiaries of the "system" and of Salinas' policies, the logic here being irrefutable. The new twist in this policy is, however, that this time financial support is demanded, not just requested, with all of the State's resources being used to this end.

3) Under the new PRI bylaws, which provide that PRI's patrimony would consist of "the revenues" to be obtained by the "National Financing Program" (Article 185), besides its assets, dues, and public funding, Alfredo Baranda (the finance secretary of the PRI CEN [National Executive Committee]), launched the new policy (PROCESO No. 758) to raise funds from private enterprise by setting up state financing committees in the States that would elect new governors in 1991. For this purpose he

met with the wealthiest businessmen in those states and established the PRI financing committees there.

The PRI finance chief is not the only one in charge of this policy, however; top officials in the Salinas regime are also involved in it, thus turning it into a true "State" policy. In the case of the Sonora gubernatorial election, for example, where the president's hand-picked candidate had been known for weeks, his "unveiling" was delayed until Josep-Marie Cordoba (the technical secretary of the Presidential Cabinet) had talked private groups in the state into supporting PRI financially. As was reported in the press, the presidential envoy met at the Valle Grande Hotel in Hermosillo with the 30 most prominent businessmen in the state, a gathering organized by Claudio X. Gonzalez (a prominent businessman and presidential adviser), to tell them which candidate Salinas had chosen and to "challenge" them to lend his campaign their financial support, which they agreed to do. In Queretaro, Colima, Nuevo Leon, and Campeche, prominent businessmen linked to the corporate groups in those states were also "invited" by the government to support the ruling-party candidates and placed on the respective PRI financing committees. The meager financial support that they are actually providing suggests to many, however, that although they are backing the ruling party and its candidates, their involvement is merely a "screen" to conceal the fact that PRI continues to depend mainly on public funds.

Under such conditions, business support for PRI campaigns is more than just illegitimate; indeed, it shows that Mexico remains a regime of a State party.

Costa Rica

Negotiation on Strikers' Demands Rejected

PA2006171991

[Editorial Report] San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1234 GMT on 19 June 1991 carries a six-minute report saying that "the two-day general strike of government employees, which started this morning, apparently has been successful since the beginning." The report says that the great majority of teachers support the strike. This support, however, is only acceptable in the health sector and even less so in other state sectors.

According to the station, union leaders have reported that "they have been intimidated, particularly by the Public Works Ministry." Teachers from the metropolitan area and the provinces joined the strike declared by teachers and workers associations.

In addition, Labor and Social Security Minister Carlos Monge has said that he disagrees with the strike and that he holds the union movement responsible for any irregularities and disturbances that might result from it. He said that "the quarrel goes against everyone." He added that the government is attempting to handle the country's crisis as best as possible for the benefit of all, rather than for the benefit of a particular group. The minister finally said that "the only way out of this disagreement is through dialogue."

Panama City ACAN at 1455 GMT on 20 June 1991 carries a 250-word report saying, among other things, that the strikers "demand a 25-percent salary raise, the cessation of dismissals of public employees, a check on the high cost of living, and the right to negotiate the changes that the government plans to make in the pensions system." The government, however, flatly refuses to negotiate the workers' demands and "warns that the strikers will be penalized with the loss of the equivalent of two days of salary."

El Salvador

Update on FMLN-Government Talks in Mexico

PA2006181691 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Jun 91 p 3

[Text] Political analysts said here in San Salvador on 18 June that the situation in the dialogue between the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in Queretaro, Mexico is difficult.

On the morning of 18 June, international news reports announced a "near and imminent cease-fire." In the afternoon, the same agencies reported that "the outlook was not too encouraging."

This round of negotiations which started on 16 June does not have an established closing date, but observers believe that it could end next week. Jonas, Hercules, and Heleno are representing the FMLN. They left areas of conflict on 16 June under protection of the United Nations and the Spanish, Venezuelan, Mexican, and Colombian ambassadors. The REUTER News Agency transmitted statements from the secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador, Jorge Shafik Handal and Oscar Santamaria [Justice Minister and member of the government Dialogue Commission] who agree that there is consensus on 95 percent of the points regarding the future Army.

Handal said, "This could potentially be the last or next-to-last meeting." "If advances are achieved in this round, the negotiation process will be totally irreversible and operational affairs would be the only thing pending," he added after saying that he agreed with Santamaria's point of view regarding the percentage of points on which there was consensus.

Handal stated that five percent of discussions still pending concern topics such as the purging of the Armed Forces and the creation of a new police corps under civilian control.

He also announced that they have softened their position regarding the military. "It is yet to be seen whether the government will take a similar position or remain intransigent," Handal said.

Regarding the aspect of violence in the country, Cuba denied on 18 June that they are supplying SA-16 surface-to-air missiles to the FMLN.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry said "The Cuban Government has never supplied those weapons."

Defense Minister on FMLN Offensive

PA2106005191 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 18 Jun 91 p 5

[Text] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce yesterday said at the Legislative Assembly that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] had called off the offensive they were planning. Ponce went to the Legislative Assembly to explain the position of the Armed Forces with regard to land seizures.

Ponce asserted that the rebels had called off the offensive in light of the timely appearance of the Armed Forces and given the political pressure it subsequently experienced.

The defense minister had recently warned that the rebels were preparing to launch a large-scale offensive.

The defense minister added, however, that the rebels will continue to carry out small-scale actions, among which is included the recent murder of an Armed Forces officer.

Ponce noted that the Armed Forces are willing to sign a cease-fire tomorrow because it has the political conscience and the will to do so. The rebels, he added, are afraid of a cease-fire.

The defense minister claimed that the cease-fire period will not be an easy time. Then he revealeded that the officers who receive training in the Police Academy are prepared for this phase.

On the land seizure issue, Ponce said that of the 24 land seizures, only four have been evictions and those were authorized by a legal order.

At the Economy and Agriculture Commission, where he explained the Armed Forces' position on the land seizures, Ponce said that the Armed Forces as an institution does not see the occupation of land as part of a FMLN strategy.

Nevertheless, the general warned that there has been at least some manipulation by this armed group in this regard.

FMLN Said Divided on Political Struggle Issue

PA2006190191 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Jun 91 p 60

[Report by Alba Elsia Lizama]

[Text] Queretaro, Mexico, 18 Jun—Disclosures made today in Mexico by two leading newspapers regarding a strong debate within the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], which has denied a political struggle, could test the insurgents' resolve at the negotiating table to either seek peace or maintain the current situation.

EXCELSIOR and NOVEDADES today published statements by Commander Jeronimo, one of the FMLN leaders who directed the November 1989 offensive, regarding the split that exists within the FMLN.

According to the guerrilla leader, who was interviewed by several well-known agencies, there are military commands within the FMLN that are resisting a changeover to a political struggle, and there are sectors that maintain an orthodox revolutionary concept of seizing power with weapons.

A local source has observed that although there may be sectors within the FMLN that oppose a negotiated solution of 11 years of war and bloodshed, the international community's pressure on their delegation to the peace talks in Queretaro will test their pacifist resolve.

It is here, then, that the FMLN's General Command must prove just how resolved it is to make peace to El Salvador.

The FMLN and government delegations are meeting at a hotel to negotiate what may be reforms to the Armed Forces and a possible cease-fire. Both delegations have reiterated their resolve to make "progress" in the negotiations mediated by the United Nations, following the failed meeting in Caracas, where both missions suspended the talks and each side accused the other of refusing to continue the meeting.

The talks in Queretaro today entered their third day with a discussion of a broad and complicated UN document regarding possible Armed Forces modifications, as well as another document on the effectiveness of a future cease-fire.

Jailed Guerrilla Escapes in FMLN Attack

PA2006155291 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Sources close to the Supreme Court of Justice confirmed the escape of guerrilla leader Ramon Suarez during the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] attack against La Esperanza prison during the night of 17 June.

According to a report by Radio Venceremos, the guerrilla commander was in prison charged with terrorism, and he has once again joined the ranks of the FMLN.

The FMLN announced on 19 June that it had released more than 400 political prisoners during the attack against a prison located in the capital city, but the government has said that only 132 prisoners were released by the FMLN.

The Armed Forces has pointed out that this is the fourth attack in less than two years against La Esperanza prison. It is also the attack that has resulted in the greatest amount of prisoners being released.

Radio Farabundo Marti, one of the FMLN's's radio stations, said that one of the prisoners that was able to escape was Commander Ramon Suarez, and added that during the fighting around the prison installations, the Armed Forces suffered 27 casualties, either killed or wounded. Approximately 100 prisoners who were liberated have already joined the FMLN ranks.

On the other hand, Justice Minister Rene Hernandez Valiente has stated that 132 prisoners escaped from La Esperanza prison. Of this number, 35 were political prisoners. Minister Hernandez added that there were 2,620 prisoners housed in La Esperanza prison, 35 of which were political prisoners.

The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] said that the rebel attack, which lasted approximately four hours, resulted in the death of nine inmates, four guerrillas, and two soldiers. In addition, there are twelve wounded people.

According to the Justice Minister, on 18 June, after the rebel attack, a small group of prisoners rioted inside the prison and attempted to attack the weapons arsenal. So far, no official information has been released with respect to the outcome of the uprising.

The rebel radio station said that the operation to release the La Esperanza prisoners began with an attack to [word indistinct] the 1st Infantry Brigade which provides protection to the prison that is located in [word indistinct] and northern part of San Salvador. The radio station added that several guerrilla units simultaneously attacked internal positions within the prison which it had been able to penetrate, and were able to release more than 200 political prisoners.

The FMLN acknowledged the death of Henry and [name indistinct] during the attack and said that it had been able to capture [words indistinct], an M-16 rifle, [word indistinct], and other equipment.

The FMLN radio station said that: Through the power of our actions we have liberated our comrades because we do not trust in abuses and in a corrupt justice system. We also consider it unjust to jail someone because he does not agree with the political ideas of the armed forces. Likewise, the FMLN condemns the treatment given to the prisoners.

On the other hand, Justice Minister Hernandez Valiente accused the guerrillas of violating the rights of the prisoners by conducting an attack on a prison installation that is enclosed and where it is impossible for anyone to escape without getting caught in the cross fire.

Weekly Roundup on Battle Reports

PA2006144791

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of battle reports relating to the internal conflict.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 2055 GMT on 10 June carries a 250-word report on clashes between Salvadoran Army troops and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, guerrillas. The report states: "According to official and rebel sources, the clashes left at least 17 casualties in each side." The Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, reported that four guerrillas and a soldier were killed and four soldiers were wounded in clashes that took place in the northern and eastern part of the country. Meanwhile, the FMLN reported it killed four and wounded four 6th Infantry Brigade and Atonal Battalion soldiers in San Francisco Javier and San Agustin, Usulutan Department.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0039 GMT on 11 June reports that END [National Army for Democracy] units clashed with 5th Infantry Brigade soldiers, who were traveling from San Esteban Catarina to Santa Clara near the (Los Amatones) detour at noon on 9 June. "As a result, two casualties were inflicted on the enemy," Venceremos states. The 5th Infantry Brigade suffered one more casualty in Santa Clara at 1700 when it was attacked by rifle fire. Another casualty was inflicted by a sniper at 0500, for a total of four casualties on the 5th Brigade in Santa Clara jurisdiction, San Vicente Department.

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 11 June reports that on 0530 on 9 June, Salvadoran Air Force A-37 planes and helicopter gunships bombed the area of El Llano, San Antonio, and El Patacon Hill, Cabanas Department. Paratroopers were deployed to San Antonio Hill, El Patacon Hill, and El Paradero Hill, where clashes ensued at 1415. According to the report, when the paratroopers moved to El Paradero Hill, they stepped in a mine field and suffered a total of four casualties.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 1858 GMT on 11 June reports on a communique issued by Coprefa, which states that during the month of May, the guerrillas committed 49 human rights violations and 146 attacks against economic and private property targets in the country. The Coprefa communique included two diagrams with statistics showing that five civilians had been kidnapped by the guerrillas.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0200 GMT on 12 June reports that the 1st Infantry Brigade sustained 23 casualties on 10 June after the forces of the National Army for Democracy attacked military positions at the San Francisco Sugar Mill, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan Department, according to "a war bulletin of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in Guazapa Hill." The station also reports the 1st Infantry Brigade sustained three more casualties when its troops fell into a mine field on 8 June near Platanares, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan. Meanwhile, two paratroopers were seriously injured on 10 and 11 June when they fell into mine fields in Tortugas, Tejutepeque Jurisdiction and in La Cruz, Cinquera Jurisdiction, both in Cabanas Department, the same broadcast reports. To conclude the military reports, the station says the Bracamonte Battalion sustained seven casualties when the END on 11 June attacked the battalion's positions in San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department. (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 12 June reports on the same 10 June attack against the 1st Infantry Brigade in San Francisco, adding that the military garrison was destroyed.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0200 GMT on 13 June reports that the END forces fought on 11 June against the "entire Oromontique Battalion of the 6th Infantry Brigade, disbanded a company, and evicted it from the territory under our control in El Tigre Hill." The report adds the battles took place in Chinameca Jurisdiction and that "the enemy sustained seven casualties." The broadcast adds that on 11 June, "END artillery units used 81-mm mortars to attack positions of Military Detachment No. 4 that guard the landing strip at San Francisco Gotera in Morazan Department," but there are no reports of any casualties. The same report adds that the Atonal Battalion sustained three casualties following a clash with the END on 12 June in El Palmo, near San Francisco Javier, Usulutan Department. To conclude its report, this Venceremos broadcast adds that on 11 June, the END downed two power towers near Ahuachapan and Santa Ana.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0003 GMT on 14 Jun carries a seven-minute report stating that at 0100 on 13 June, members of the National Army for Democracy launched an "artillery attack on positions of Military Detachment No. 4 in El Picacho, located in the ouskirts of San Francisco Gotera, inflicting an unspecified number of casualties on the enemy." The report says further: "At 0200 on 13 June, END units launched an attack on enemy positions in the northern part of the town of Yamabal, where no casualties have been confirmed." "On 12 June," the report adds, "END units seized a stretch of the military route, in Trinidad and La Arenera Cantons, damaging four pylons." According to the report, "at 1800 on 12 June, END forces launched an attack on Oromontique Battalion troops in Batres Canton,

Santiago de Maria Jurisdiction, inflicting one casualty on the enemy forces, who fled in disarray."

The report continues that at 1330 on 11 June, "END forces clashed with two companies of the Oromontique Battalion in San Luis de la Reina Jurisdiction, resulting in four army casualties." "The enemy fired indiscriminately on highly populated areas," the report states, "killing one civilian and wounding a child." This report says that "on 13 June, END units ambushed a military truck transporting troops from Military Detachment No. 6 in Santa Eduviges Farm, inflicting seven casualties on the anti-democratic forces." The report states: "At 1930 on 12 June, END urban forces launched an attack against amilitary position at the Torre Democracia, Jardines de Guadalupe residential area, the vicinity of the UCA [Central American University], and the neighborhood Plan de la Laguna, in San Salvador." The report says: "The fighting in San Salvador lasted two hours." The report concludes by saying: "At 1730 on 12 June, END forces inflicted one casualty on Atonal Battalion troops at the coffee processing plant in San Francisco Javier."

At 0000 GMT on 14 June, (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish broadcasts a three-minute report saying that "on 12 June, END forces sabotaged seven pylons on the road from Chapeltique to Ciudad Barrios, San Miguel Department." This report concludes by saying: "At 0730 on 13 June, seven casualties were inflicted on troops of Military Detachment No. 6 by Feliciano Ama Western Front members, on the road between San Salvador and Sonsonate."

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 14 June carries a 120-word report citing a Coprefa spokesman as saying: "The Armed Forces have destroyed a guerrilla camp, with a capacity to house 4000 FMLN extremists, near Tecoluca, San Vicente Department." The report indicates: "The soldiers found abundant ammunition for AK-47 rifles, six explosive devices, 13 pairs of boots, several green uniforms, food, and communist propaganda." The report states further: "FMLN rebels harassed Military Detachment No. 4 positions, near the town of Chilanga, Morazan Department." This report adds that Army's 3rd Infantry Brigade sources reported that "Vaquerano Battalion troops repelled a group of terrorists who tried to enter San Luis de la Reina Municipality, San Miguel Department." The report concludes by saying: "No rebel or army casualties were reported in both actions."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 15 June carries a six-minute report stating: "The Armed Forces have sustained 23 casualties in clashes against guerrilla units in five departments." The report says that on 12 June "four casualties were inflicted on enemy forces in Antiguo Cuscatlan, San Salvador." This report continues that at 1000 on 14 June, "END units launched an attack on Arce Battalion troops in Sesori Jurisdiction, San Miguel Department, inflicting four casualties on the Arce Battalion." During this action "we sustained one minor casualty," the report says. The war bulletin indicates that "at 1500 on 14 June, END units ambushed Army's 4th Infantry Brigade troops with two powerful mines in the road between Las Minas and Chalatenango, inflicting four casualties on the enemy." The report adds: "At 0800 on 14 June, troops from Military Detachment No. 1 fell in a mine field in Las Vueltas Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department, resulting in three casualties." According to the report, "another casualty was inflicted on Military Detachment No. 1 troops in Cerro El Limon, also in Las Vueltas Jurisdiction." The report claims: "At 1130 on 13 June, four casualties were inflicted on 5th Infantry Brigade troops, led by Colonel 'Mule' Herrarte, in El Coyol, Santa Clara Jurisdiction." The report says: "At 1000 on 14 June, one more casualty was inflicted on enemy troops in Santa Rosa Canton." "At 1200 on 14 June, END units inflicted one casualty on Military Detachment No. 1 troops in Cerro El Cielo, Concepcion Quezaltepeque Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department," the report concludes.

Guatemala

Delegates Comment on Mexico Peace Talks

PA2106010491

[Editorial Report] Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish at 0400 GMT on 19 June carries a 7-minute report on the remarks made by Msgr. Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, National Conciliation Commission chairman; Manuel Conde, secretary general of the Presidency; and Guatemalan Labor Party leader Ricardo Gonzalez, "who uses the pseudonym Carlos Gonzalez," during an impromptu news conference held in the city of Cuernavaca, Morelos State, Mexico, at the conclusion of the second day of the peace talks. Msgr. Quezada Torunos lauds the two sides for their "political commitment to reach an agreement."

Government delegate Conde reaffirms "President Jorge Serrano Elias' political commitment to expedite the peace process." He notes that the participants must set their "sights on the present and future, without getting entangled in the historical roots of the problem," because the country is now going through a process of "democratization." He adds: "We believe human rights must be respected and enforced. That is the government stance, and that has been the stance outlined by President Serrano since his first day in office," because "he is deeply committed to democracy."

Speaking on behalf of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, Rosales stated that the two sides must discuss "topics as important as human rights and democratization in the country. The two topics have their specific characteristics. These are very sensitive issues for our people." He adds: "In this respect, we feel that the fact that we are discussing these topics means we are laying the foundations for a strong and lasting peace in the future."

Honduras

Amnesty International Report Criticized

PA2106030091 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jun 91 p 10

[Communique issued by the Press Secretariat of the Honduran Presidency in Tegucigalpa on 18 June]

[Text] Concerning the Amnesty International report that was carried by international news agencies on 17 June which contains views on enforcement and respect for human rights in Honduras, the Honduran Government states to the national and international public:

1. The Honduran Government regrets the contradiction contained in the Amnesty International document because while it recognized that during the administration of Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero there have been no evidence of disappearances, it did contain subjective observations about the conduct of the state in the area of human rights in the country. This is so because the document is based on biased sources, ignoring the legal framework upon which the country's body of laws stand.

2. The Inter-Institutional Commission on Human Rights has extensively made known the actions the government has carried out on behalf of human rights, and it has publicly reported the legal punishment of those who, from a position of authority, have committed crimes against individual guarantees during the current administration.

3. So-called political prisoners have not been punished because of their political and ideological beliefs. Instead, these individuals have been legally found guilty of committing crimes. They were arrested when they were illegally transporting weapons for subversive groups or placing explosive devices which have endangered the lives of innocent citizens and damaged public and private property.

4. The Honduran Government regrets that international human rights organizations do not recognize the efforts that President Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero has undertaken on behalf of civil rights, showing his deep respect for all sectors, without distinction to ideological and political affiliation.

5. The Honduran Government once again reiterates to the Honduran people and the international community that it has issued precise instructions at all levels so that those persons who violate the individual guarantees of citizens will be punished according to the law.

Tegucigalpa, 18 June 1991

Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic

German Loan for Structural Adjustment Plan

PA1906185891 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 18 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] The Governments of Honduras and Germany signed a preliminary treaty yesterday for 129 million lempiras as a means of supporting the economic structural adjustment program and the plans that are being carried out by the Honduran Social Investment Fund (FHIS).

The signing of the agreements took place in the Blue Room of the Government Palace in the presence of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and members of his cabinet.

Germany was represented by Ambassador Walter Eickhoff, Richard Brantner, president of the Credit for Reconstruction Institute (KFW), and UNICEF representative Patricio Fuentes.

The Honduran party comprised FHIS Director Alonso Valenzuela, Finance Minister Benjamin Villanueva, Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata, and Central Bank President Ricardo Maduro.

The 129 million lempiras are broken down as follows: 45 million to support the structural adjustment program, 54 million for the FHIS, and a donation of 30 million lempiras for the protection of the Platano River biosphere and other natural resources in La Mosquitia.

The above funds add up to 43 million German marks which are equivalent to 129 million lempiras.

These credits were granted with a 40-year term, a 10-year grace period, and an annual interest rate of 0.75 percent.

Part of the donation also includes $250,000 to support the School Furniture Pilot Program in the Valle Department. The programs' first stage was inaugurated by President Callejas on 14 June.

In his speech, the FHIS director pointed out German financial support to forestry and social projects currently being carried out in the country.

As of early this month the FHIS had approved 1,586 projects which have created 45,000 jobs, Valenzuela said.

German Ambassador Walter Eickhoff said that the funds had already been approved but were only disbursed now because of the structural adjustment program being endorsed by President Callejas.

In the meantime, Richard Brantner said he came to the country to verify Honduras' real needs "in situ."

Brantner said that the German Government recognizes the hardships that President Callejas is going through because of the economic program, and mainly because of the social costs and burdens it involves.

The official praised the work carried out by the FHIS to the point that he said Germany could create an institution with similar duties.

In this regard, Brantner said that Germany expects to continue cooperating with organizations like the FHIS.

On his part, President Callejas expresses gratitude for the credits and the donation received from the German Government and UNICEF.

Nicaragua

Recontras Seize Yali, Demand Lacayo's Ouster

PA2006181591 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] A group of 500 recontras have seized the town of Yali in northern Jinotega Department. The recontras, who also have plans to seize the towns of El Cua and Wiwili, ask

President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro to remove Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo Oyanguren and Government Minister Carlos Hurtado.

Jinotega Mayor and Socialist Deputy Enrique Guevara endorses and supports these armed actions that cause so much damage to the reconciliation process desired by the Nicaraguan people.

Bomb Explosions Reported at Politicians' Homes

PA2006195591 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1834 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Two terrorist attacks have occurred in different departments of the country. According to official reports that have been received, the criminal attacks were perpetrated against members of the Conservative Party, the Independent Liberal Party, and deputies of the National Opposition Union [UNO] political coalition. [sentence as heard]

A powerful explosion was reported at the home of Conservative Deputy Sergio Torres Olegario in Jinotega, and a fragmentation grenade was thrown at the residence of an unidentified politician in Granada, the police report indicates. The terrorist device was left by unidentified men early this morning at Mr. Torres Olegario's house, and the explosion destroyed several household appliances.

Police reports indicate that the first explosion was caused by a fragmentation grenade that unidentified persons threw at the former deputy's house.

FSLN, Government Discuss Ways To Curb Tension

PA2006182791 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Government Minister Carlos Hurtado said this morning at a news conference that he has been in direct contact with Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate, with whom he has discussed efforts to curb the tension that exists in the country due to the events of the past few hours.

[Begin Hurtado recording] Commander Ortega expressed his concerns and I stated the government's concerns. We agreed that a joint effort is necessary to deal with the situation on the spot and as quickly as possible. [end recording]

Hurtado also announced that 2,500 policemen have been deployed throughout Managua to protect deputies, government employees, and public areas. He said that 50 percent of the Government Ministry forces nationwide are on a state of alert.

Radio Takeover Ends, Mayor's Office Held

PA2006201991 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Celso Martinez report from Matagalpa]

[Text] Good morning, Radio Catolica listeners. At approximately 2030 hours yesterday, the 25 people who took over Radio Matagalpa—armed with pistols of various calibers—have vacated the premises and returned the station to its owner, German Alfaro Ocampo. The return carried certain conditions as the terrorists active in this city are, according to Alfaro, manipulated by Jose Gonzalez Picado, former commander and current Sandinist National Liberation Front representative in this city. The group told Alfaro that they would give him back the station provided he promised to read, at intervals, a communique they would draft protesting the repeal of Laws 85 and 86, backing the Sandinist faction, and directly pressuring Mayor (?Frank Masteazoro) into issuing titles for several land tracts the people irresponsibly took soon after the electoral triumph of the National Opposition Unity.

One of the conditions was that the Sandinists should read the protest communique. Alfaro replied that this would be equivalent to a continued occupation. In the end, and in the presence of policemen, the Sandinists agreed that the Radio Matagalpa people themselves would read the communique. We have unofficially learned that police Captain Juan Ramon Gray did not participate directly in the return of the Radio Matagalpa installations.

Meanwhile, the insurgents who took over the Matagalpa mayor's office will not vacate it without direct instructions from Managua. The captain has said that he will dislodge the people only when Managua police headquarters notifies him. Approximately 34 workers stay in and around the mayor's office under the control of approximately 25 Sandinists. The demonstrators have tried unsuccessfully to break into the treasurer's office. The station's personnel are being let out so they can get some food because no one had been out since 1100 yesterday.

Municipal Councilman Francisco Herrera has said that he and some others will try to persuade the Sandinists to leave so activities can return to normal in the mayor's office today. We will report to Radio Catolica on any changes to keep the population posted on the situation.

Update on Masaya Municipal Offices Takeover

PA2006174491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Report by Esteban Quezada in Masaya—live]

[Text] We have contacted Masaya by telephone and learned that an agreement has been reached between the people who seized the municipality of Masaya. Donald Medrano, member of the Community Movement, gave us a report.

[Begin recording] [Medrano] We would like to announce that at approximately 2130 last night we managed to negotiate with the Masaya council and the commissions of the Front for the Defense of the Right to Housing and Land. The negotiations included Deputy Julio Marenco and the Front's representatives. One of the agreements reached was the immediate issuance of land titles and the delivery of those that are currently being held by the municipality.

In addition to the issuance and delivery of land titles, based on a list prepared by the Front, land titles will be given to families that have no documents. Another agreement says that the land ownership rights of families which settled at La Progresiva Neighborhood after 25 February 1990 should be respected. The commission will review the list prior to the distribution of land titles so no one may have more than one parcel of land.

The agreements state that the mayor will contact the central government in Managua to purchase land and create a land bank. He will thus be able to solve difficult cases. Still another agreement says that the negotiation commission is authorized to supervise the delivery of land titles throughout Masaya's 14 neighborhoods. The Front will return the municipality's installations at 0700 on 20 June; and the commission must immediately start its first work session.

[Quezada] Listen, Donaldo, will the Masaya municipality's installations be delivered with an inventory?

[Medrano] When we...[changes thought] the authorities will arrive and the agreement will be implemented. The municipality's installations will be received by the commission which delivered them because—when the takeover occurred—police and Government Ministry authorities arrived with the mayor to check the state of the municipality's installations.

We reached an agreement which says: The municipality installations will be received by the commission which delivered them, in the presence of authorities—who will adopt the necessary measures in case any damage has occurred.

[Quezada] Well, it is clear that the Masaya problem has ended. A procedure has been outlined so the Masaya land owners can receive their titles. Is that right?

[Medrano] The struggle for the non-repeal of Laws [85 and 86] after the three-week deadline expires continues. We reached an agreement in Masaya that says that the land titles delivery will occur in three weeks.

[Quezada] Thank you, Donald Medrano, for your statements to Radio Sandino. At least the problem of the municipality's takeover has been solved; the radio station [Radio Corporacion] has been returned; and it seems that the situation is returning to normalcy. [end recording]

FSLN Congress Supports Sandinist Leadership

PA2106005291 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jun 91 pp 1,12

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] Departmental Congress in Managua ended with Tomas Borge's admission that there had been abuse concerning Laws 85 and 86 (the Sandinist "give-away" laws) and with the suppression of a rebellion among FSLN members, who demanded that FSLN leaders be elected one by one and through a secret vote.

Following three days of discussions, sometimes bitter, the FSLN in Managua decided to support the current Sandinist leadership, adding Sergio Ramirez and Rene Nunez, who were "recommended" by the Sandinist Assembly and whose participation in the Sandinist National Congress was questioned by many of the 400 Sandinists who attended the capital's congress.

All the Sandinist rhetoric of democratizing the party and respecting the rank and file's views collapsed when it was time to discuss the way in which its leadership members would be elected in the upcoming national congress, to be held in July. The congress preparatory commission had decided that the National Directorate members would be elected as "a slate," by asking the delegates if they wanted the current leadership or not.

Nevertheless, Ligia Elizondo, a heretofore unknown Sandinist activist, proposed that Sandinist leaders be elected one by one and through a direct and secret vote, which is what democratic political parties do. Applause quickly followed because it is well known that many mid-level FSLN leaders have been endorsing the idea that a truly democratic election should be secret and direct.

Furthermore, Rafael Solis recently said that he would only recognize leaders who were elected through a secret vote.

The debate gathered momentum at this point and the directorate board in charge of the capital's congress faced a difficult situation because—after more than 30 members of either side had taken the floor—it seemed that the rebellion would win.

Nevertheles, when it was time to vote, the results showed that 242 supported the system of voting "by slate" and 149 supported the system of electing the members by secret vote and one by one. The Sandinist leaders felt relieved again because the rebellion had been suffocated.

The other issue that provoked a controversy in the Managua Sandinists' congress was the participation of 120 Sandinist Assembly members in the national congress, with voting rights, even though they were not elected as deputies. The commission organizing the national congress had decided since the beginning that all the delegates should be elected by their communities to represent the people, so the congress could be more democratic.

Nevertheless, a "recommendation" was submitted at the Managua congress so the Sandinist Assembly members could participate, with voting rights, even though no one elected them. The participants again divided into two groups and the discussions began, until everyone eventually decided to review issues like: the reduction of National Assembly membership from 120 to 80; their appointment through an election; and, if a National Assembly member is elected by his own community, he must relinquish his place to another member so he does not have double representation.

Another issue that was discussed at length was the Sandinist ideological principles, because some "moderate" leaders tried to create the impression that the party could

be oriented toward a rapprochement with Socialist International (social democratic ideology). Even though the party's eventual definition did not specify that it was of a Marxist nature, certain labels such as "revoutionary," democratic, and anti-imperialist party, implied that there will be no changes in its ideological orientation. Tomas Borge closed the congress with the usual high praise about the event. He then referred to the thorny issue of the "give-away" by publicly recognizing that Sandinist leaders are guilty of abuse with the illegal seizure of assets that did not belong to them, but he said that the issue shuld be discussed during a national consultation instead of abrogating Laws 85 and 86.

Rafael Solis had been the only FSLN leader who had requested a revision of the "give-away," so this is the first time that a National Directorate member, and the only survivor of the FSLN founders, has referred to the "give-away" in a critical manner.

The Managua congress clearly established that the FSLN secretary general, a position that is being included in the next statutes, is reserved for Daniel Ortega, who leads the campaign concerning a discussion of Laws 85 and 86.

Henry Ruiz will be the FSLN treasurer, and Tomas Borge has practically been appointed chairman of the directorate board for the national congress that the Sandinists will celebrate in July.

Telcor Workers Reach Wage Agreement, End Strike

PA2006195791 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1848 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Workers and employees of the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute, Telcor, who had declared a strike demanding a salary increase and other economic and social benefits, have reached an agreement with the government and settled for a 30-percent wage increase.

According to official reports, the Telcor strike lasted two days and the workers did not recant until the government promised the 30-percent increase plus a complementary adjustment retroactive to May, April, and March.

The government also agreed to reclassify the workers' positions in coordination with the unions which operate within the state organization. At least (1,000) workers and employees participated in the strike and paralyzed the administrative and post office activities, and they threatened to interrupt international communications, which would have paralyzed Nicaragua and left it isolated from the rest of the world.

Cosep Members Abandon Concerted Effort Talks

PA2006173491 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] The Nicaraguan Higher Council of Private Enterprise (Cosep), today walked out of the "National Concerted Effort" meetings alleging that it is inconsistent to be speaking of a concerted effort while armed Sandinists are roaming the streets occupying public places and private property.

Engineer Jaime Bengoechea said that Cosep's withdrawal is temporary.

The Cosep delegations which left the meeting are the members of the "property" and "privatization" commissions.

Cosep has held the position that it is necessary to first define property rights in Nicaragua as a basis for subsequent agreements on all of the country's other social problems.

Panama

Endara Queried on 'Issues of National Interest'

PA2106042991 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Interview with President Endara by unidentified reporters in Panama City on 19 June—recorded]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has denied the alleged sale of Escudo de Veraguas Island by Legislator Francisco Artola. President Endara also spoke about other issues of national interest.

[Endara] That information is completely false. No island has been sold. The sale of the island has not even been authorized. I am sure Legislator Artola has not sold it, because he cannot sell it. He is not authorized to sell it and as a legislator he is not authorized to do so. Therefore, knowing Legislator Artola, I am sure that he has not. Furthermore, he has been in the hospital, so he could not have sold it while in the hospital.

The island will not be sold; at least, never for that amount. During a cabinet meeting a few months ago, I believe, we considered it briefly and came to the conclusion, the cabinet concluded, that an island could not be sold for $170,000, despite the fact that an appraisal so indicated. We believed that such an amount does not justify the sale.

[Reporter] Are you considering the sale of land or something like that?

[Endara] No, no. A group has offered to buy Escudo de Veraguas Island, but we will never to sell it at that price.

[Reporter] On other issues, Mr. President, regarding the situation with the students, do you think the decision to temporarily close the public schools in Panama City, San Miguelito, and one in Colon was hasty, given the great number of protests from the teachers?

[Endara] The teachers have the right to protest, and I am the first to recognize that right; however, I believe we did very well, very well. We must maintain the peace and we must also ensure the health and safety of the students. We could not have maintained the peace if we had allowed the students to continue with those violent demonstrations.

[Reporter] Some sectors say, however, that the same actions that were taken with the students before are being taken now.

[Endara] I do not understand. The way the police have proceeded with the students has been infinitely better than the way the dictatorship handled them. We remember that during the dictatorship they used clubs and the students were beaten with them. No clubs have been used here; tear gas has been used and, very sporadically, bird-shot.

[Reporter] Regarding an alleged rumor of you possibly dissolving the Assembly, what do you have to say?

[Endara] That is a totally unfounded rumor. I made a commitment when I assumed the office of president of the Republic. I made a commitment and swore an oath before God and the country to defend and enforce the Constitution of the Republic of Panama. The Constitution of the Republic of Panama establishes a legislative branch. I cannot go against state organizations that are legally established and provided for in the Constitution. What is more, I would be stabbing myself in the back because the same people's will that elected me, elected the National Assembly.

PRD Communique Condemns Attempt To Frame Party

PA2006225191 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Jun 91 p 1

[Text] The National Executive Committee of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] has observed with increasing concern President Endara's government's desperate attempts to try to link our party to alleged plans to overthrow his government. Therefore:

1. We denounce the statements made by different spokesmen of Endara's government insinuating that the PRD is involved in plots to overthrow his government; these statements are totally false.

2. We reiterate our proposal to reach a social pact between all sectors of the country to avoid desperate social situations that may lead to explosions of unsurmountable consequences.

3. We warn our members to be extremely careful and to avoid becoming involved in actions that could give the regime an excuse to unleash a scheme of persecution and repression against our party.

4. We state our intention to defeat the most inept government that the republic has ever had through elections.

5. We ask Endara's government not to create smoke screens to cover the antinational and unpopular actions it intends to carry out at the National Assembly before 30 June.

[Signed] Gererdo Gonzalez V., Tomas G. Altamirano D., Ernesto Perez Balladares, Mitchel Doens, and Francisco Sanchez Cardenas.

PDC Legislator Interviewed on Party Plans

PA2006235791 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jun 91

[Interview with Christian Democratic Party legislator Guillermo Cochez by Luz Maria Noli; place and date not given; from the "Dialogue" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Noli] What will happen at the next Christian Democratic Party [PDC] convention slated for 25 August?

[Cochez] The party will be strengthened even more, because interestingly enough, being the opposition has united us. Many people did not understand our message to the country on 8 April. Our party received 42 percent of all the votes cast in the country to elect a president, we have every right to make demands and stay in power, yet we gallantly stepped aside to become the opposition. That is a lesson we have taught many people. We placed the interests of the nation above temporary posts....

[Noli, interrupting] Could you draw that 42 percent again?

[Cochez] Who knows? It could be more, it could be less. There are variables in politics. It will depend on us, the Christian Democrats, to analyze—as a modern party—how the trends are moving and what the polls say. We must improve some things. I believe that we have made some mistakes and we have corrected some. I believe that we are now presenting constructive opposition, a democratic opposition. We are showing the country that even when we are outside the government, we are part of the government....

[Noli, interrupting] Like yesterday's meeting with Vice President Ford?

[Cochez] Like our meeting this week with Vice President Ford. This is the first such meeting since 8 April. During this meeting, his people explained their viewpoints on the economic problem. We explained ours. We—they and us—realized that those in the government must accept what we propose, as the opposition, and we, as the opposition, must support the government's measures, so that we can again become a government party.

For example, we told them such simple things as the role the PDC has played in the Legislative Assembly. We discussed the university law. That is very easy, Luz Maria. I am a professor at the university, and so are [Legislators] Dr. Arellano and Dr. Alonso Villarreal. Perhaps, we should not have given our opinion on the university law. Nonetheless, there we were, because it was our responsibility to do so. We did not hide like others did; we accepted our responsibility in the debate over that law.

We are accepting our responsibility in the debate over the Social Security Fund. A PDC member is chairman of the Health Commission. We are not opposing the law. We have said: This law is bad, it is poorly presented, and we want to improve it. We are going to consult with the various sectors of the country so they will voice their opinions. This is something that perhaps the executive branch should have done before. We are doing it now.

[Noli] At yesterday's meeting we discussed topics that deal with Social Security and the economic program—which has been completely rejected, especially by the business sector; however, there are uncharitable people who point out that the government has a radio announcer's attitude—it does not listen. What was the attitude of government representatives at yesterday's meeting with PDC representatives?

[Cochez] Luz Maria, I believe that we need to be very honest in this regard. The country's problems cannot be summarized with the discussion of a law. That is why every time people question what I did or did not do I reply that there are other more important things to talk about or discuss. We are facing serious problems aside from those involving the Social Security Fund—we had a military uprising in Chiriqui, we hear of new coup attempts amid situations similar to those of 4-5 December 1990, and there are problems with corruption. This proves that all those who said that once the PDC departs all the problems will be resolved were wrong. The PDC gave the government the little coherence it had. We, all Panamanians, and you, the media, need to be very concerned because of this lack of coherence. You call it a radio announcer, who only speaks and does not listen. We also told this to both Vice President Guillermo Ford and Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo, because this is how we feel—our country has become a ship with no one at the helm; a country without anyone to brandish the baton and lead the way.

[Noli] Wait a minute. You have just mentioned an uprising similar to that of 4-5 December—something that was very hard on all of us Panamanians, not to mention all the moments of uncertainty. We have been having student problems all this week—serious student problems. In your opinion is this also part of what you have just mentioned?

[Cochez] The marches that have been taking place, the closure of schools because students are taking to the streets without reason—of course, all of this added to the government's incompetence in resolving small problems—are all definitely part of this. There was an Attorney General's Office source who pointed out the thwarted kidnapping of Mr. Humbert two weeks ago and the shots fired at the home of Jorge Endara Paniza [General Directors of the Social Security Fund] and another official. Remember the shots fired at the comptroller general's home and at the home of Minister Galindo. In other words, we see a repetition of everything, including the attempt to have former policemen and officers reinstated to the National Police after their ouster in the wake of the 4-5 December events. These are situations that make even the poorest political analyst suspect that something is going on for sure. I am told that Eduardo Herrera's house—where he is being held under house arrest—is a permanent meeting place. Names of captains and lieutenants are beginning to emerge in connection with events in Renacimiento [where police allegedly disobeyed the orders of civilian superiors]. These events were initially denied, but now we see that they did in fact take place. The Renacimineto garrison was robbed by policemen who disobeyed civilian authority. Even the Chiriqui Province governor's name has been mentioned as having taken part by trying to cover up events.

Before 8 April, there was a government minister who exercised control, despite the political costs, and was on top of the situation. He held weekly meetings with the police directorate and with a police director who was on top of everything. Now we see that things have come full circle—the current police director, who criticized previous police work due to lack of resources, now says the same thing. [passage omitted]

[Noli] A few moments ago we spoke of the real danger to democracy and you say that this is no accident and seems to be planned. Could you elaborate?

[Cochez] I believe that there are sectors, even within the government, who support these situations, perhaps unknowingly, but nevertheless they become the greatest obstacles to President Endara's government actions. Despite being in the opposition, we want President Endara to finish his term on 31 August 1994, because the PDC's main goal is democratization. Right now that democratization is very much linked to Guillermo Endara's mandate, as expressed on 7 May. We do however, ask the rulers to open their eyes because people both inside and outside the government are taking advantage of the government's lack of coherence to create instability. This is very serious because it endangers democracy. When democracy is endangered, economic and social stability become endangered, all of which has cost us so much. [passage omitted]

[Noli] This means that the PDC will run independently?

[Cochez] Not necessarily. For nine years we were part of the country's biggest political alliance, the Democratic Opposition Alliance and afterward the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance. We favor a concerted agreement because we put the fatherland's interests above any political party interests. The problem is that by expelling us from the government, President Endara has given the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] the decisionmaking power of either voting with the government and helping the government win, or voting with the opposition to help the PDC win. We do not want the PRD to have this power because it is contrary to people's mandate when they voted on 7 May. We believe that there are other alternatives. The PDC is going to try not only at the Legislative Assembly level but at all national levels to encourage concerted agreements on points that best favor national interests.

Construction Workers March, Demand Wage Increase

PA2106014691 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2223 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The Single National Union of Construction and Related Workers, SUNTRACS, today declared a strike to protest an agreement signed by former leaders of that organization reducing their salaries because of the difficult situation that the construction industry in Panama was facing at that time.

SUNTRACS members marched to the Panamanian Construction Chamber and to the Labor Ministry, staging demonstrations in both places.

SUNTRACS Secretary General Genaro Lopez told RPC Radio that they are demanding the abrogation of the agreement because it goes against their personal interests.

[Lopez] "A collective agreement was negotiated for the 1988-1991 period. Without consulting the workers, however, four individuals negotiated another agreement on 13 February reducing the salaries of construction workers. Based on that agreement, the salary for assistant workers was cut by 45 cents, 52 cents for qualified workers. This means that each worker is being paid $100 less as a result of the agreement. This reduction in salary violates the Constitution, Articles 159 and 8 of the Labor Code, and Clause 108 of the collective agreement which specifies that during the period for which it was negotiated no demands can be made to negotiate or modify that agreement. Therefore, that agreement is completely illegal, and it was negotiated behind the workers' backs. We also know that it was an immoral agreement, because there was money involved. Those who signed the agreement were paid to sign it."

The construction workers also criticized the increase in the price of beef and the high cost of living. They also stated that they are losing much money because there are 5,000 construction workers whose salaries have been reduced.

Eduardo Rodriguez, executive director of the Panamanian Chamber of Construction, CAPAC, told RPC Radio that his organization has always been willing to begin talks. He also criticized the workers' strike adding that those who did not work will not be paid.

[Rodriguez] "CAPAC and its board of directors has always been willing to maintain communication and dialogue with the workers on a favorable level. The fact that they have acted against the law will not prevent us from talking with our workers to present our views and listen to theirs and seek the best solutions for the benefit of the construction industry.

[Reporter] "At this time, workers are demanding a wage increase. Is CAPAC willing to face and capable of facing that demand at this time?

[Rodriguez] "The reactivation of the construction industry has been very slow, and we feel that the country's economic conditions at present are not the best to talk about wage increases. The development of our industry depends on the market. Right now, we are facing a contraction of the market due to high unemployment, low family income, and other factors that reduce the purchasing power in the market. Therefore, it is not possible at this time to talk about a wage increase. Nevertheless, the problem exists, workers are demanding an increase, and eventually we will have to sit down to discuss the subject with our workers."

SUNTRACS leader Genaro Lopez estimated that approximately 70 percent of the construction workers participated in the strike. According to CAPAC Secretary General Eduardo Rodriguez, however, only 30 percent of the workers supported the strike.

Although the construction workers marched to the Labor Ministry, Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas said that his ministry has nothing to do with that problem, because the agreement was signed between SUNTRACS leaders and CAPAC.

[Rosas] "If the workers want to eliminate the agreement, they can always proceed according to the labor laws. If they feel that the agreement violated their rights, they can request its annulment before the labor courts. The ministry has nothing to do with that. On the other hand, if what they want is a revision, they must reach a mutual agreement with the other party. The ministry cannot pressure one side to accept the conditions of the other. Our function is one of reconciliation and mediation."

Police Confirm Attack on Flamenco Island Prison

PA2006230091 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2223 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Police authorities have no clues on the vessel that this morning opened fire with long-range weapons at the prison located on Flamenco Island.

The National Police issued a bulletin confirming the incident. The bulletin said that security was reinforced on Flamenco Island after the attack, and an operation was mounted along Balboa Avenue, Boca La Caja, and Juan Diaz, as well as areas near the Bay of Panama, but the suspicious vessel was not captured.

A National Police spokesman told RPC radio that no inmates escaped or were wounded during the incident. It is believed that the attack was perpetrated so several prisoners who are currently on Flamenco Island could escape.

CSN Views Arms Shipments, Conspiracy Reports

PA2006211391 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Jun 91 p 8

[Rafael Rodriguez article]

[Text] The National Security Council [CSN] met yesterday to evaluate the issue of the weapons shipments from Costa Rica to Panama, reportedly to be used to oust President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

The authorities that participated in the CSN meeting said that both Panama and Costa Rica are investigating the destination of 20 AK-47 rifles and one machine gun that were confiscated in Nicaragua when the authorities arrested two former Sandinist fighters and one Army member.

The National Police Director was asked about the weapons shipments and the official said his organization is not

responsible for the investigation, adding that the PTJ [Technical Judicial Police] has yet to confirm the report.

Meanwhile, Assistant PTJ Director Jaime Abab said that they are waiting for the documents from the OIJ [Judicial Investigation Office] in Costa Rica, to prove that Panamanians are involved in the plan and that the weapons were destined for Panama.

He added that no subversive movement has been detected in Chiriqui and this has been confirmed by District Attorney Emilio De Leon.

The Panamanian authorities have remained silent about a possible destabilization plan, but Costa Rica's OIJ will soon issue a report on the investigation that is currently being carried out in that Central American country.

Argentina

Cavallo Discusses Staggered Wage Bonus

PY2006154691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1815 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jun (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo today said that in view of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] decision to withhold a quorum at the debate on the bill to decide the payment of the staggered mid-year bonus, this benefit will be paid in June "as in the past."

Cavallo also said: "We will meet this commitment with the funds available to us." He pointed out: "We will pay the bonus, at both national and provincial levels, as equitably as possible."

Speaking at the Government House following a meeting with President Carlos Menem, the minister noted: "We will not sanction by decree what Congress did not approve by law." He announced: "We will seek other measures that will diminish the inflationary consequences," which was the aim of the aforementioned bill.

Before meeting with Menem, Cavallo met with Presidential Secretary General Eduardo Bauza, Senator Eduardo Menem, and Labor Minister Rodolfo Diaz, and reviewed with them the decision by the UCR deputies bloc to withhold a quorum for this afternoon.

Asked if this event can be described as "a defeat," Cavallo responded: "No, it is not a defeat," adding: "The economic plan is enjoying very good health and as the weeks go by you will see that this is true."

As to whether public employees will collect their bonus on the scheduled date, the minister said: "Well, we will try to arrange it as close to the scheduled date as possible, beginning with the lowest wage earners." He reiterated that this benefit will be paid "like in the past, unless the bill is approved today, which is now improbable."

Regarding the UCR decision to withhold a quorum, Cavallo said: "The stabilization plan will not be interrupted just because we have this special difficulty, this obstacle, in our way." He emphasized: "We will find the way to overcome this obstacle."

Cavallo indicated that, despite this decision by the UCR bloc, "we believe there is a sort of consensus" to discuss a "permanent system of staggered bonus payments." He admitted, however, that the lack of discussion of a temporary system "will not help us to resolve the consequences of this problem during July."

Cavallo considered "unnecessary" a special action by President Carlos Menem in Congress to get the bill passed because—he reiterated—there is "unanimous consensus on the advantages of definitely resolving this issue with a view to the future."

Asked whether the state has the money to pay the mid-year bonus, Cavallo answered: "It always has money because, if tax revenues are not enough, it can become internally indebted."

Nevertheless, he added: "We will try to manage with extreme care because, in doing so, we will prevent abrupt increases in interest rates which could in turn stifle the economic reactivation and hurt the progress of the stabilization plan."

In conclusion, Cavallo said: "The situation is manageable." He pointed out: "This stabilization plan is in good health. Therefore, we will preserve the atmosphere of constructive work in Congress because one set back should not make us abandon the fruitful path that we began with the full operation of the institutions."

Judge Orders Arrest of Alleged DEA Agent

PY2006172091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Jun 91 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Prosecutor Eduardo Funes yesterday asked Judge Jorge Pisarenco to order the arrest of Carlos Savignon Belgrano, an alleged undercover agent of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) who was recently released from prison—where he was held while being tried for his alleged link with the drug gang known as Operation Shrimp—on the orders of Judge Julio Speroni. Funes contended that Speroni was not competent to decide the case. Pisarenco rejected his presentation but sent it to the Criminal Economic Appeals Court for it to reach a definite decision on the prosecutor's demand. So far there is no judicial order for the arrest of Savignon Belgrano but the controversial photographer continues hiding because, his lawyer says, there are people who want to kill him.

Bolivian Drug Kingpin Arrested in Buenos Aires

PY2006224291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2131 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jun (TELAM)—Drug Prevention Secretary Alberto Lestelle has confirmed that Humberto Nicanor Gil Suarez, formerly a major in the Bolivian Air Force and now a kingpin in the "Santa Cruz Cartel" (Bolivia), was arrested here today.

Lestelle said 11 people had been arrested. The 11 detainees were members of a gang that dedicated itself to "laundering" money produced by drug trafficking through the sale of automobiles.

The ringleaders were Gil Suarez, a former Bolivian Air Force major; his wife; and Bolivian citizen Jose Bismark Aveldano Alvarez.

The raids were carried out at the "Los Alelies" ranch in Arrecifes, the San Fernando airport, and the Image Resonance Center of Ramos Mejia [in Greater Buenos Aires].

Bolivia

Road Blocks Suspended, Detainees Released

PY2006141091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] According to an Interior Ministry's resolution, all the detainees involved in the peasant mobilizations have been released.

Dr. Marco Antonio Oviedo, under secretary for the Interior Ministry, has said that complete tranquillity prevails in the country.

The under secretary for the Interior Ministry added that an agreement has been reached between the peasant leaders and the authorities. The blocking of roads has therefore been suspended throughout the country and all detainees have been released.

[Begin Oviedo recording] Acting on instructions received from the interior minister, all detainees were released yesterday evening as soon as the agreement between the government and the [word indistinct] was signed. [end recording]

More on Colombian Involvement in Drugs, FELCN

PY2106231291 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Jun 91 p 7

[Text] Colombian narcotrafficking gangs are financing drug trafficking operations in Bolivia. Retired General Elias Gutierrez, commander of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN), has reported that the FELCN has substantial evidence on foreign criminals operating with certain drug trafficking "lines" and groups.

In the last few months, the government has detected activity by Colombian drug trafficking groups along the Bolivian-Brazilian border and in the Amazon region in Beni Department. Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra has announced that "surprise" operations will be carried out to destroy drug laboratories which have been set up in the region.

Regarding the presence of foreign "drug traffickers" reportedly operating in Bolivia and the actions to be carried out by FELCN forces, Gen. Gutierrez said that, through the arrest of some Colombian drug traffickers in recent operations, it has been established that Colombian drug traffickers are financing drug operations in Bolivia.

The government expedited Armed Forces participation in the antidrug struggle because there were indications that foreigners had infiltrated the narcotrafficking gangs "operating" in the country. Government sources have reported that antidrug units supported by the Army may be able to effectively break up the Colombian-Bolivian drug trafficking rings, which are constantly changing their operational methods.

Rene Torres, legal adviser to the Interior Ministry Social Defense Undersecretariat, has stated that drug traffickers are constantly changing their methods to adjust to antidrug tactics and operations.

Speaking about the readjustments to be made in antidrug organizations, Gen. Gutierrez said the government is continuing to study the new structure. He added: "There is a willingness to grant a certain amount of independence to the FELCN, but this is still under study." He announced that the readjustments to be made will be within Law 1008.

After denying that the police, Armed Forces, and FELCN will establish a joint command to lead the antidrug struggle, Gen. Gutierrez said the Army's participation in the antidrug struggle will allow them to expand operations. He said: "We will have significant support because in some instances we will need a larger number of troops than the FELCN is able to gather in one place."

The FELCN, which will coordinate actions with the police and the Armed Forces, will continue to lead the antidrug struggle.

As for the future deployment of the Machego Battalion, Gutierrez said that the 500 troops will always be in a state of readiness. He said that basically it will act as a support force but that the FELCN will continue to lead antidrug operations.

Brazil

Payment of Foreign Debt Arrears Approved

PY2006172691 Madrid EFE in English 1605 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Brasilia, June 20 (EFE)—The Senate voted Thursday [20 June] in favor of a two-month-old agreement between the government and leading creditor banks to pay off dlrs eight billion in interest arrears on Brazil's commercial foreign debt.

Following the Senate's decision, Brazil is likely to disburse dlrs 900 million within the next 10 days as the first of seven installments totaling dlrs two billion due before the end of the year.

The second part of the agreement, which involves the issue of 10-year bonds by the Central Bank to cover the remaining dlrs six billion in overdue interest, is expected to be carried out once the government reaches an agreement with creditor banks on payment of the principal.

These negotiations are likely to begin once Brazil manages to secure backing from the International Monetary Fund, analysts said.

Brazil's dlrs 122 billion foreign debt is the largest in the developing world.

Oil Purchases From Iraq Need UN Authorization

PY2106034291 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jun 91 p 31

[Text] Iraq has consulted with Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] about the possibility of resuming oil sales to Brazil. This information was released yesterday by Petrobras Commercial Director Mauricio Alvarenga. He explained that the state company will resume purchases from Iraq only with UN authorization, which he expects will be granted late this year or early next year. Alvarenga said Iraq had been Brazil's second-largest oil supplier.

Brazil suspended imports of 120,000 barrels of oil per day from Iraq in compliance with the embargo imposed by the United Nations due to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in

August 1990. The United Nations is studying ways to force Iraq to appropriate 30 percent of its oil revenues for war reparations.

New Satellite-Fed Cable TV Service To Begin

PY2106033091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jun 91 p 29

[Summary] GloboSat, a cable television service whose transmissions are received directly from satellite through a parabolic antenna, will begin service in October. Subscriptions to this service, which will be supplied by four television channels, will be available in July. Agreements are being signed with U.S. and European journalists as well as with foreign television stations to supply information around the clock for two of the cable television channels; the other two channels will broadcast sports and variety programs. This service will cost the consumers approximately five times more than other television services because it is the only cable television service supplied through satellite. GloboSat will initially be available in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. The Avril and Machline groups will start operating their cable television service in Rio de Janeiro in two or three months. This service will broadcast programs from the United States, including CNN and the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, as well as assorted films, cartoons, and variety programs.

Ex-Paraguayan President To Be Allowed To Travel

PY2006181691 Madrid EFE in English 1748 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Brasilia, June 20 (EFE)—Former Paraguayan military ruler Gen. Alfredo Stroessner is be allowed to travel to the United States without losing his political asylum status in Brazil, officials said Thursday.

Stroessner has lived with his family on the outskirts of the Brazilian capital since he was overthrown by a military coup on February 3, 1989, after a 35-year dictatorship.

Officials did not disclose when Stroessner, 78, was planning to travel to the United States or disclose the reason for his visit.

Chile

President, Malaysia's Mahathir Hold Talks

BK2106080691 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has met with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin for talks on boosting trade between their countries. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir arrived in Santiago on Wednesday on a four-day official visit. A Chilean Foreign Ministry official said Santiago was keen on increasing Chilean-Malaysian trade which totaled $57 million last year.

French, Swedish Embassies Occupied

PY2106031091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Members of the National Political Prisoners Coordination Board today occupied the grounds of the French and Swedish Embassies in Santiago to pressure the Chilean Government to release political prisoners.

The two embassies were simultaneously occupied at 1000 this morning. Thirteen youngsters entered the residence of the French ambassador and, through a spokesman, let it be known that their purpose was to express solidarity with the political prisoners on hunger strike and to draw attention to the state of health of some of those prisoners.

Carabineros showed up in front of the French ambassador's residence but the diplomat did not request their intervention.

One hour later, the occupants left the ambassador's residence in five diplomatic cars that took them to the office of the Human Rights Commission.

At the same time, six female relatives of political prisoners occupied a Swedish Embassy office to force embassy officials to mediate with Chilean authorities for the release of political prisoners. The office was occupied until the afternoon, when the demonstrators decided to end the hunger strike they had planned to stage there.

Colombia

Further on Surrender of Escobar, Others

Escobar Post-Surrender Interview

PA2006133891 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1254 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Interview with Pablo Escobar Gaviria by Luis Alirio Calle at the Envigado prison following Escobar's surrender on 19 June—recorded]

[Text] [Alirio] Pablo Escobar, how would you describe your submission to the Colombian justice system today, 19 June, here at Envigado?

[Escobar] To me, this is essentially an act of peace.

[Alirio] Pablo Escobar, what do you, the main actor in this event, think or hope will change in Colombia, in Antioquia, and in Medellin as a result of your surrender to the authorities?

[Escobar] I hope there will be a strengthening of civilian government and Colombian democracy, absolute respect for human rights, and peace for the entire Colombian nation.

[Alirio] Before surrendering to the authorities, were you merely awaiting today's events, that is, the Constituent Assembly's rejection of extradition for Colombians?

[Escobar] No, no. That had nothing to do with it. My surrender and my submission to the authorities were absolutely independent of the National Constituent Assembly's decisions.

[Alirio] Did you at any time doubt that this decision might become a reality?

[Escobar] No. I had no doubts of any kind. I knew that there were obstacles, and that there have always been enemies of peace in Colombia, but I always had a great deal of faith, and I believed that this was the best path and the best contribution that I could make to peace in Colombia.

[Alirio] Pablo Escobar, when did you decide to turn yourself in to the authorities

[Escobar] I decided to turn myself in when I saw that the National Constituent Assembly was working to strengthen human rights and Colombian democracy.

[Alirio] Finally, many people believe, or hope, or expect that your surrender to the Colombian authorities will basically bring about a clarification of many things, including crimes that have been attributed to you. In other words, they think it will somewhat dispell the darkness, as some other people say.

[Escobar] You are quite right. The only thing this country needs to have peace is, first of all, dialogue, and then clarity, absolute clarity. The country needs clarity.

Update on Surrender, Reactions

PA2006131591 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1218 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Medellin—Medellin Cartel kingpin Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria spent his first night in the Envigado Municipality jail after voluntarily turning himself in to the authorities, accepting the government decrees which guarantee his non-extradition and a reduction in sentences for confessed crimes.

Marta Luz Hurtado, Antioquia regional criminal director, asserted to RCN [Radio Cadena Nacional] that Escobar Gaviria has started confessing to several judges, to enjoy the benefits of the state of siege norms that were issued by the government to facilitate the drug traffickers' surrender.

The Medellin Cartel kingpin is at the special prison in Envigado with three of his lieutenants, who are identified as Carlos Aguilar Gallego, a.k.a. El Mugre; Ottoniel Gonzalez Franco, a.k.a. Otto; and John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez, a.k.a. Popeye. National Criminal Director Carlos Eduardo Mejia said that no foreign government has sent evidence against Escobar Gaviria; adding that he hopes other extraditables will turn themselves in in a matter of hours.

The first words that Medellin Cartel leader Pablo Escobar Gaviria said when he saw Father Rafael Garcia Herreros were: This surrender is mostly due to you. Garcia Herreros picked him up in a helicopter to transfer him to the Envigado prison. This was explained by the priest to RCN from the special Envigado prison, where the drug trafficker was confined along with three of his trusted men.

Garcia Herreros said: When I saw him he was wearing a white windbreaker, he had a beard, and his eyes were shining. We embraced and he later jumped into the helicopter with one of his men. Garcia Herreros added in his statements to RCN. According to the priest, the Medellin Cartel leader was picked up in a jungle region that has reddish rocks; and it is located in a certain area of Antioquia Department—not far from the Envigado Municipality jail.

The priest said: This is a positive step for peace in the country. I feel happiness, honor for Colombia, and satisfaction because I found a good man who is capable of giving great things to the nation. He added that Escobar Gaviria is satisfied with the special Envigado prison conditions, even though it needs some books to start the project of establishing a cultural center on the premises.

President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo reasserted that Pablo Escobar Gaviria and his lieutenants will be tried by the Colombian authorities and that they will not be extradited to the United States. In his statement following the Medellin Cartel kingpin's surrender, Gaviria announced that the Colombian Army will be in charge of guarding the Envigado prison, where Escobar Gaviria was transferred along with John Jairo Velasquez Vasquez, a.k.a. Popeye; Luis Carlos Aguilar, a.k.a. El Mugre; and Ottoniel Gonzalez Franco, a.k.a. Otto.

The president said that his peace policy does not include or imply negotiations with Escobar Gaviria; and he warned that those who do not accept the benefits of the Colombian justice will be sought after and arrested—and the law will be strictly enforced. President Gaviria said that the judges will now be in charge of the legal process against the drug trafficker, who will benefit from the decrees calling for a sentence reduction following the confession of at least one crime.

Cartel Finance Chief Surrenders

PA2106020191 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0008 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Members of the Medellin Cartel continue to arrive one by one at the maximum security prison in Envigado. Valentin de Jesus Taborda Echeverri and others whose names have yet to be released entered the prison today amid heavy security.

It is known that Valentin de Jesus Taborda was one of those who participated in the kidnapping of Andres Pastrana Arango [son of former President Misael Pastrana] and that he is considered to be the finance chief of the Medellin Cartel. Here is a report from Jorge Silva Valencia on Taborda's arrival at the prison:

[Begin recording] The two members of the Medellin Cartel, Valentin de Jesus Taborda Echeverri, who was paymaster of the criminal organization, and another unidentified member of the cartel, arrived at the prison at approximately 1545. They arrived in a gray vehicle of the Departmental Criminal Investigations Directorate. Five vehicles of the same directorate escorted the vehicle carrying the two members of the cartel. This latest surrender was coordinated by Marta Luz Hurtado, departmental director of criminal investigations, and Regional Attorney

General Juan Guillermo Sepulveda. Criminal investigation judges are at this moment hearing the confessions of the two members of the cartel. In less than 24 hours, six members of the criminal organization have surrendered in the Envigado maximum security prison. [end recording]

Escobar's Brother Still at Large

PA2106040791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The people and the authorities are today wondering why some of the men mentioned as trusted aides of the chief of the Medellin Cartel have not thus far surrendered to the authorities. Who are these men?

Exactly one year ago, police posters were being distributed in every city. The posters warned: Do not become the next victim, report them. The 11 most-dangerous men, according to the authorities, were wanted. Three of those 11 men were killed by the police, while five preferred to surrender. The question now is why the remaining three have not accompanied Pablo Escobar to the top security prison.

One of those three men is Pablo Escobar's brother, Roberto Escobar Gaviria, alias Samuel. The authorities say that Pablo Escobar trusts him completely and that perhaps he will secretly begin to manage his brother's business. The other two are also brothers. The police began to hear about them when they were involved in a cargo of dynamite that was found in Medellin. They are known as La Quica and Tyson.

At that time, La Quica was arrested by the 4th Brigade and transferred to the Modelo prison in Bogota. Tyson was apparently in charge of the slaughter at Candelaria, near (Carivalle). These two men, on the contrary, evaded justice when they left the prison under the eyes of the Modelo prison guards. Since then, they have been fleeing the authorities.

There is another man, Valentin de Jesus Taborda Echeverri, who—although he was not included on the poster—today went to the Envigado prison to surrender. When he was captured on the day Andres Pastrana was rescued, he was injured in the foot. It is said he is the chief of finances for the cartel. However, he was released due to a ruling by the Medellin Superior Tribunal.

Today, Taborda Echeverri was fearful when he went by a military checkpoint on his way to the Envigado jail. He was no longer fearful when the soldiers recognized Judge Marta Luz Hurtado, regional director for Antioquia, who was escorting him.

Wrapup of Guerrilla Activity 14-20 Jun

PA2106031291

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on government-rebel clashes and activities monitored from Colombian media on 14-20 June:

Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 14 June carries a one-minute report citing Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo saying that guerrillas "killed two peasants in Puerto Narino, Amazonas Intendancy." The report added that Botero Restrepo said that "the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB] has not shown genuine willingness to end its actions against the Armed Forces, the civilian population, and the public property of all Colombians."

Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 15 June publishes a 150-word report on page 6 report citing a Defense Ministry communique saying that "CNGSB guerrillas blew up a stretch of the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline on 14 June."

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 17 June carries a two-minute report saying that "50 rebels dynamited a toll station located between Valencia de Jesus and Aguas Blancas, in Cesar Department." The action was attributed to CNGSB guerrillas, who "stole approximately 600,000 pesos." The report added that "the damage was estimated at 15 million pesos."

Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 20 June carries a one-minute report stating that "15 members of the Police, Navy, and Army were killed by guerrillas in two ambushes carried out in San Benito Abad, Sucre Department, and Puerto Rico, Meta Department."

Constitutional Assembly Media, Draft Reforms

PA2106015191 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The Constituent Assembly passed two reforms on 19 June, concerning the media. It instituted the Right of Response for political parties and movements, and created an organization independent of the government that will intercede in the administration of Colombian radio and television.

In a first-round debate, the Assembly approved the Right of Response, which entails the media's obligation to transmit and publish rectifications by any political leaders who feel they have been misrepresented. The Assembly also created an autonomous administrative entity, independent of the Executive Branch, that will intercede in the administration of electronic means of mass communication, thus assuming the duties of the National Institute of Radio and Television, Inravision.

The Constituent Assembly ratified the continuity of mandatory military service, but instituted the right to object to carrying and using weapons and rejected the provision that established 17 as the full legal age.

Peru

Second Vice President Criticizes Fujimori

PY2006182291 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] On 16 June, Second Vice President Carlos Garcia Garcia said that President Alberto Fujimori "has set him

aside." He added that had he known the policy that Fujimori was going to implement, he would not have joined his presidential team.

Garcia said: "I am not allowed to make any official decisions." Garcia is one of the main leaders of the Change 90 Movement which helped Fujimori to win the elections.

Garcia announced that because Fujimori has set him aside, he has decided to open an office in which he provides assistance to the poorest sectors. He said: "I am engaged in social activities," adding that his institution has recently donated 300 tons of medicine to fight cholera.

Garcia urged the government to first resolve its debt of honor with those who supported the Change 90 Movement, adding: "The foreign debt must also be paid but not at the expense of the Peruvian people."

U.S. Embassy Help in Drug Struggle Lacking

PY2006131491 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Jun 91 p 5

[Text] Deputy Julio Castro Gomez, president of the commission that investigates property confiscated from drug traffickers, has revealed that the U.S. Embassy is inexplicably refusing to cooperate with the commission. Castro said that this attitude violates the agreements signed with Peru for the struggle against that scourge.

Castro explained his commission is planning to go to the Alto Huallaga zone but the visit has had to be postponed because the U.S. Embassy is refusing to transport the commission members on the grounds that this duty is not mentioned in the agreements.

The legislator recalled that the United States promised to support all actions against drug trafficking but that the embassy personnel are now arguing that their only responsibility is to transport Interior Ministry representatives.

Castro explained that the congressional commission's trip to this zone, which is the largest producer of coca leaf, is important because the most significant confiscations from drug traffickers have taken place in that area.

Puzzled, Castro added: "This problem of formalities makes no sense because they are overlooking the importance of the commission's work. They do not seem interested in supporting a multisectorial congressional commission that is strongly devoted to its mission."

Castro Gomez said that this attitude violates the agreements that were signed in 1988 and subsequently renewed.

Castro said that the United States is revealing its intolerance in this relationship between two sovereign nations. He added that the United States only does what it wants, pursuing its interests, and is not interested in fulfilling its share of the agreement.

Castro asked: What's going on? Are we just a U.S. colony? Where is our country's sense of democracy? And where is their respect for the commitments undertaken?

The United Left deputy said that he is now seeking the cooperation of the Peruvian Air Force [FAP] to transport the commission members to Santa Lucia base, in Huallaga. Castro said: "I hope the FAP will support this commission that represents one of the state branches."

He noted that U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton is not responsible for what is happening because he is not in Peru; U.S. Embassy officials are responsible for this situation.

Castro also referred to the attitude of the United States since the first agreements were signed. He stated that its policy seeks to implement police and judicial repression mechanisms and to eradicate coca plantations.

Castro commented: "We have had some disagreements over this point because we believe that this policy should be accompanied by the substitution of coca plantations with alternative crops."

The deputy said that this fact was reconfirmed during the teleconference held by high-ranking U.S. official Melvin Levisky a few days before the antinarcotic agreement was signed, the agreement in which the coca growers are called delinquents.

Castro Gomez said he feared this position might prevail and demanded an amendment in order to tackle the problem in an objective manner, thus avoiding any setback in what has already been achieved.

He mentioned that Peru has been signing agreements with the United States since 1980. Up to now Peru has signed 69 agreements which represent cooperation worth $101 million.

He also added that out of the total number of agreements signed, 50 were signed with the United States and various U.S. organizations, eight with the UN Antinarcotics Fund, and the rest with countries such as Italy, Great Britain, Germany, and also with the EEC.

Castro said: "Of this $101 million, approximately $52 million has been used to finance projects to eradicate coca plantations and to make the police, the attorney general's office, the customs, and other repressive organizations more effective."

"Approximately $45 million of the UN Fund was used to finance substitute crops for the coca plantations and special projects such as the Alto Huallaga and Valle de la Convencion in Cusco," added Castro.

Defense Minister on Military Role in Drug War

PY2006214091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Jun 91 p A 6

[Text] Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego said yesterday that the Armed Forces' involvement in actions taken under the antidrug agreement signed by the Peruvian and U.S. Governments will be "very general," adding that their mission will simply be to create conditions which will allow the National Police to eradicate drug trafficking.

"This mission is a strictly police sort of thing. The Armed Forces' involvement will be very general and simple: They will create the conditions to allow the police to eradicate

drug trafficking, but we ourselves will not take any action against that crime," the minister stressed.

He said, however, that they will continue with the antidrug struggle because "terrorism sometimes mixes with drug trafficking, giving rise to what we call narcoterrorism. We do have to eliminate those criminals."

Torres Aciego reported that peasant self-defense patrols will continue to receive arms, a policy his ministry has been carrying out for several months. He explained that shotguns have been supplied to the patrols, which have been trained to stem the flow of subversives to districts, villages, and hamlets where they "not only kill and destroy but even seize children."

He said that the main objective is to have a self-defense committee at each hamlet: "We will organize it, train it, and supply it with an average of 10 to 20 weapons," he said.

Asked about the capture of 15 policemen by terrorist criminals in Huancayo and arms robberies, he said he preferred "not to meddle in the affairs of my colleague, the interior minister. I would prefer that you ask him this question."

Ministers Deny Presence of Colombian Cartels

PY2006163291 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Jun 91 p 10

[Text] Interior Minister General Victor Malca Villanueva and Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego yesterday denied the presence of Colombian drug cartels in the country.

They affirmed that there is no indication that Colombian drug traffickers have moved to Peru, fleeing from strong repression in their country.

State Prosecutor Pedro Mendez Jurado mentioned the possibility that Colombian drug traffickers have moved to Peru. He did so on the basis of information gathered at a judges' meeting in Bogota.

The prosecutor said that Colombian court officials had reported that drug cartels have moved to Peru, taking advantage of the vast forest zone that is not under any police or military control.

That information was connected with the discovery of large drug shipments by sea from Peruvian ports to Europe and the United States, and with the arrest of Colombian drug traffickers in Peru.

There were also rumors of transfers of large tracts of land in the Peruvian forest to Colombian buyers who were believed to be installing drug-operation headquarters there.

The interior minister and the defense minister denied, however, indications that Colombian cartels have set their operations in Peruvian territory, a presence that was said to be related to the opposition of some sectors to the antinarcotics agreement with the United States.

Generals Torres Aciego and Malca Villanueva testified at a secret session of the Senate's Defense Committee headed by Senator Felipe Osterling Parodi of the PPC [Christian Popular Party].

The PPC congressman confirmed that the Colombian drug cartels had been discussed, but the defense minister refused to answer the journalists' questions on the grounds that the Senate defense committee meeting had been secret. "It was a secret session and I cannot disclosed anything," said Gen. Torres Aciego when questioned at the door of Congress.

Senator Osterling did reveal, however, that the two ministers confirmed that Colombian drug cartels have not moved to Peru, but he did not elaborate further.

He said that the Armed Forces and the National Police are implementing the fight against drug trafficking and subversion and that this was discussed.

He indicated that there was agreement on the need to fight trafficking and subversion both through repression and on the socio-economic front.

Osterling also confirmed the alarming fact that had been provided by the interior and the defense ministers: Commissioned officers and noncommissioned officers are quitting the police and the military institutes in large numbers.

The congressman said: "We understand that the number of resignations is rising. They are leaving because of low salaries and the high risk involved in the fight against subversion and drug trafficking."

Osterling recognized the need to provide special resources to the military and police institutions, both to boost their salaries and to replace their equipment and material that is constantly becoming outdated.

He concluded by saying that the interior minister reiterated at the session that the policemen who are captured by the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] are not discharged or punished. Interior Minister Malca Villanueva affirmed: "The only action taken is an investigation by the National Police Inspectorate."

Government Fines Soviet Fishing Company

PY2006222091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Jun 91 p A 1

[Text] Twelve Soviet fishing ships have been fined 500 tax units for violating Peruvian fishing laws, including providing false information, using prohibited fishing practices, and throwing hydrobiological resources into the sea.

The fines, which are included in a ministerial resolution dated 5 June 1991 which was published in EL PERUANO on 12 June, affect the ships which were operating in Peruvian waters from 23 June 1989 to 18 February 1991 under the fishing agreement signed between the Peruvian Fishing Services Enterprise [Epsep] and the Soviet Sevryba corporation.

The fines must be paid to the Peruvian Industrial Bank and deposited in the account of the Fishing Ministry's

Fund for Fishing Development within 15 days. The value of the tax units will be the one in force on the date the violations took place.

Fines were also levied for delivering low-quality fish meal to Epsep, for making fish meal from fish which was good for human consumption, and for freezing low-quality fish.

Several fines were also levied for activities against the environment, for producing fish meal with salmonella, for obstructing the technical work of inspectors, for the presence of rats on the ships, and for fishing larger quantities than allowed.

Fishing Contract Reported Signed With USSR

PY2006153191 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 14 Jun 91 p 4

[Text] Luis Bedoya de Vivanco (PPC) [Popular Christian Party], chairman of the Senate Fisheries Commission, yesterday reported that a new fishing contract has been signed secretly with the Soviet Union. This new contract is reportedly based on the protocol on fishing activities signed with the USSR during the time of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] government.

Bedoya de Vivanco said that the agreement, pending ministerial approval, was signed by the Humboldt Cooperative and the Soviet enterprise "Murmanrybprom" for an "experimental" period.

He explained that, under this agreement, three Russian trawlers will be allowed to fish sardines and anchovy for the production of fish meal, thus violating the General Fishing Law that restricts the fishing of endangered species.

Bedoya de Vivanco said that each vessel has a 400-metric ton capacity. He added that this agreement is detrimental and illegal, and that for this reason the commission has agreed to invite Fisheries Minister Felix Canal Torres to explain the matter.

Bedoya de Vivanco added that the minister must also explain why the Pescapeco Company has been authorized to fish giant squid (Pota), "of which the legal representative is a relative of the minister."

The senator said that the granting of this license was decided by the minister in Korea, during a trip he made with a representative of the Pescapeco Company.

Recent Terrorist Activities, Police Responses

Security Forces Kill 30 in Ucayali

PY2106025691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0054 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Lima, 20 Jun (EFE)—Military sources in Lima reported on 20 June that at least 30 members of the "Shining Path" terrorist group were killed on 18 June in a clash with Peruvian security forces in Ucayali Department in the Peruvian jungle.

In an official communique released in Ucayali, the Political-Military Command of the Ucayali Front pointed out that the clash took place in a rugged area of Padre Abad District in Padre Abad Province, about 800 km northeast of the Peruvian capital, where Army personnel were carrying out antisubversive operations.

The military communique notes that the security forces were attacked by "terrorist criminals" of the Maoist "Shining Path" group during the operations and that about 30 subversives were killed in the clash. No casualties were reported from among the military.

The military communique adds that arms, explosives, logistic material, medicine, and propaganda material were seized from the terrorists.

The Maoist group's casualties can be added to others—more than 50—that the organization sustained last week in various jungle areas in the Peruvian Amazon and in Lima.

Combined Army and police forces killed seven Shining Path members in Lima on Wednesday while about 30 subversives were killed in clashes with security forces on 17 and 18 June in San Martin Department in the Peruvian jungle.

Police Kill 7, Arrest 20

PA2006235691 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0059 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Seven subversives were killed today in a shootout with the police in the new settlement of Jose Carlos Mariategui in Villa Maria del Triunfo. Twenty other male and female rebels—10 of whom were wounded—were captured in an operation carried out by the police and soldiers in nearby houses and hills.

The shootout was one of the bloodiest in Lima's metropolitan area in a long time; even helicopters were used. It took place at 1100, when policemen in a patrol car caught by surprise a number of rebels trying to set up banners—which were red and painted with a hammer and sickle—on top of houses. Army and police troops began chasing the rebels immediately. One group, made up of seven guerrillas, tried to escape in a microbus down the San Gabriel-Villa Maria del Triunfo route. The police fired at their vehicle, preventing them from escaping. Two guerrillas were killed instantly. One of them, Jose Luis Cordoba, 25, was carrying a great deal of subversive propaganda and a weapon. The five others died on the way to the Maria Auxiliadora Hospital, where one woman was identified as Maria Loaiza Leon, 23.

Meanwhile, amid heavy shooting, policemen raided neighboring houses and captured more than a dozen terrorists. In addition, two Army armored personnel carriers pursued the rest of the rebels, who tried to take refuge in a local pigsty on a nearby hill, where they stood their ground and fired back. The clash continued for approximately two hours, with both groups firing on each other. Soldiers captured two more subversives, who were literally wrenched away from the hill and forced to board a military vehicle. Another military contingent continued to pursue the subversives.

The magistrate in charge of terrorist cases, Ruben Mancilla San Miguel, arrived at the site approximately three hours after the events and ordered the removal of the corpses as part of the investigation of the incident.

In another operation, members of a tactical operations unit, the police's explosives squad, removed subversive signs in the new 7 October settlement of Agustin. During the night, subversives had installed a huge red banner with a hammer and sickle. There was fear that, after pulling out, the guerrillas had planted booby traps on the rough roads.

Police Deactivate Bombs; Kill 7

PY2006144491 Lima Radio Nacional del Peru Pachacutec Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Swift intervention by the National Police forces guarding some power installations prevented the destruction of two high tension pylons. The police deactivated three powerful bombs that had been planted at the base of the high tension pylons No. 47 and 48 on the Mantaro power line.

Yesterday afternoon, the police forces guarding the repairs to the pylons that were knocked down in the latest attacks found devices each made up of 50 meters of slow fuse and 5 kg of dynamite.

Seven terrorists were killed, two were wounded, and 12 women and 32 men were arrested during a clash between police forces and a group of nearly 60 terrorists yesterday morning in the crowded district of San Juan de Miraflores.

The police action occurred as the terrorists were about to raise a red flag on top of a school building, located in a place known as Limatambo, in Tangadel district. As soon as they saw the police, the terrorists attacked. The police repelled the attack with the support of Army and Air Force police department personnel. Two individuals identified as Jose Luis Cordova Perez, 25, and Myrian Loyza are among the dead terrorists. The police seized 11 homemade explosive devices, one cardboard box containing explosives with detonators, fuses, a .32-caliber Ruby Extra revolver with four cartridges, a Mauser pistol, and 52 dynamite sticks with their respective detonators.

The terrorists and the materiel have been placed at the disposal of the Counterterrorism Division. Police continue to intensify their operations to repress criminal actions in Lima and Callao.

Shining Path Leader Reportedly Seen

PY2006173291 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Jun 91 p 27

[REport by correspondent Edgar Jara]

[Text] Cajamarca—Peasants claimed to have seen Abimael Guzman Reynoso leading a series of attacks in townships in Cajabamba Province, Cajamarca Department.

Guzman, the top leader of the Shining Path terrorist organization, is the subject of an intensive search by the National Police and military forces.

Guzman, the ideologist and founder of the Shining Path terrorist group, is guarded by a large number of armed supporters who wear olive green and who are armed with sophisticated weapons, according to residents of towns that were attacked by Shining Path terrorists last week, attacks in which seven peasants and 11 police officers died.

The same sources said that Guzman reportedly led a terrorist group that ambushed a police patrol, killing nine of them. The incident occurred on 5 June in the Sayapullo District, on the borders of the La Libertad and Cajamarca Departments.

It has been learned that the National Police Intelligence Service is analyzing the reports provided by the peasants, whose identities have not been disclosed. All of them claimed to have seen the terrorist, whose face has been repeatedly shown in the press and on television.

The peasants made their report to members of Los Tigres de Chaquicocha antisubversive detachment which is "patrolling" the townships in the Cajabamba Province that have been attacked by terrorists during the past few days.

A terrorist "hideout," which is apparently a real operation center, is reportedly located in Cajabamba, a southern province of the Cajamarca Department. This is a rural region of irregular geographical features and thick forest that lacks roads.

The terrorists reportedly take advantage of the geographical situation and the lack of police and military surveillance in the area to attack townships and kill the authorities and peasants who oppose their demands.

Sources close to the military intelligence service have stated that shortly before his arrest in 1988, Osman Morote conducted all his terrorist attacks from the "Shining Path Terrorist Triangle" made up of the Cajabamba, Santiago de Chuco, and Huamachuco Provinces. It is believed that Guzman is currently leading the terrorist columns in this area.

The peasants who claim to have seen Guzman live in the villages of Otuto Conday, Uchunday, Chaupi, Moncada, Huaracay, and La Quebrada del Alto Calvario, where the terrorists have killed some residents.

During an attack on 3 June in Uchunday, the terrorists forced Jose Ramirez Villanueva out of his house and blew him up with a stick of dynamite stuck in his mouth.

Armed Antiterrorist Group Spotted

PY2006184891 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 17 Jun 91 p A12

[Text] Huancayo, 16 Jun—According to police sources, a group called Gato [Armed Operational Antiterrorist Group] (Grupo Armado Antiterrorista Operativo) appeared in this zone two months ago. On 8 June this group entered Yanacancha and Yanamarca in Jauja, in the Acolla district of this province.

The sources added that there are three Gato groups, each comprising about ten men who carry automatic weapons, are well trained, and wear ponchos and small shawls [chalinas].

In Yanacancha and Yanamarca, the Gato members gathered the people during a subversive attack. They painted slogans and blew up the houses of people who they believe are cooperating with the Shining Path and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement].

This group distributed pamphlets in which they describe themselves as a "patriotic group who want peace and progress for the central region and whose main purpose is to infiltrate the Shining Path and the MRTA in order to identify their leaders and eliminate them."

The symbol of the group is a cat with two rifles on a white flag with the word "Gato" in black letters.

Peasant Patrols To Receive Arms

PY2106002291 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Jun 91 p A 12

[Text] According to sources from the Armed Forces Joint Command, all towns in the emergency zone area will receive from 10 to 20 shotguns, depending on their needs and location. The shotguns were manufactured by the Navy and Army.

This report was confirmed yesterday in Congress by Defense Minister Jorge Torres Aciego when he appeared before the Chamber of Deputies Labor and Social Security Committee.

In the next couple of weeks, the president will travel to the emergency zone to deliver the guns to the peasant patrol groups so they can defend themselves from terrorist attacks.

The same sources added that the majority of the shotguns, which were manufactured by the Weapons Manufacturing Center of the Maritime Industrial Service (Cefar-Sima), are the MGP-10 model.

These 12-gauge shotguns are 118 cm long and weigh 2.95 kg. They are loaded with nonmilitary cartridges and are excellent for personal defense.

By importing some spare parts, the army is also able to manufacture "Winchester" 1300 "Rangers." These are 28 inches long (about 71 cm), weighing 3.29 kg. Like the MGP-10, they use 12-gauge shells and can be used to repel an aggressor at short range.

The number of shotguns that have been ordered has not been reported. It has been announced, however, that President Alberto Fujimori will deliver them to community leaders who will in turn be trained by Army troops on handling these guns and on battle tactics.

The sources said: "This has been planned by the military-political command in each emergency zone. Each command makes an assessment in each community to establish the number of guns needed for their self-defense."

EL COMERCIO was informed that the towns that are more exposed to subversive incursions will get more guns. Guns will be distributed to these communities and a communications system will be established so that, in case of an attack, they can alert the closest Army detachment so it can immediately come to their aid.

The sources concluded by stating: "The idea is for the peasant defense patrols to resist the attack until Army troops arrive."

Roundup of Activities 10-15 Jun

PY2106014891

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on terrorist activities in Peru compiled from Peruvian papers published from 12 to 16 June. Publication information is given in parentheses after each item.

Early on 10 June Shining Path terrorists shot to death Jorge Angulo Echegoyen, manager of the Cosapi construction company, in downtown Ayacucho. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Jun 91 p A 11)

During the evening of 10 June terrorists seriously injured General Police Captain Armando Loo Pando, who was with his two children playing a video game in a shop in Los Olivos District. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 Jun 91 p 11)

Early on 11 June some 100 Shining Path terrorists attacked a police station in Quinches, Jauja Province, 50 km from Huancayo, killing an undetermined number of police officers. The terrorists also seized a large quantity of large-caliber weapons, grenades, and ammunition. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 Jun 91 p 11)

Terrorists have intensified their actions in Chumbivilcas Province, which has been in state of emergency for over two months. In the districts of Quinota, Livitaca, Llusco, and Ccapac Marca, Shining Path terrorists recruited youths and left leaflets urging peasants to join them. In the towns of Pampachiri and Huitaca, three peasants were shot to death. In Condorhuanso, on the border of Apurimac Department, terrorists killed two brothers, charging them with having deserted from the Shining Path organization. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 12 Jun 91 p 11)

The Armed Forces Joint Command has reported that on 12 June Antisubversive Battalion 313 killed four subversives and seized weapons and explosives during a shootout with terrorists in the town of Corvinilla, Tingo Maria District, Huanuco Department. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 June 91 p A 14)

On 13 June the police arrested two alleged terrorists from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, MRTA, who were distributing supplies near the San Martin de Porres market in Lima. Another group of MRTA terrorists held up a truck and stole 900 bags of sugar which were later delivered to residents of the Santa Rosa shantytown in Los Olivos District. MRTA terrorists also robbed a truck carrying bottles of soft drinks which they distributed in Villa Maria del Triunfo District. They later burned the truck. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Jun 91 p 25)

At dawn on 14 June Security Police forces in charge of guarding Lima's prisons thwarted the escape of 10 Shining Path terrorists from the Miguel Castro Castro prison in Canto Grande. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 Jun 91 p 27)

The Counterterrorism Division has managed to identify 700 Shining Path terrorists who were planning to attack public and private properties. The arrest of six members of the Shining Path metropolitan committee led to the identification of the 700 terrorists. The police seized leaflets, a large quantity of explosives, and weapons from the six terrorists. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 15 Jun 91 p 27)

On 15 June some 40 Shining Path terrorists murdered a man and seriously injured a 12-year-old boy in Canto Grande because they opposed the distribution of soft drinks the terrorists had stolen from a truck in the Huascar shantytown. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Jun 91 p 30)

* Enlisted Personnel Form 'Clandestine' Union

* Press Conference Held

91SM0337A Lima EL NACIONAL in Spanish
28 Apr 91 p 8

[Text] After a period of silence since this January, what used to be called the Clandestine Union of Peruvian Policemen has voiced the threat of a strike, once again from the underground, in the wake of the abuses that junior personnel have suffered at the hands of senior officers. This time, however, it called itself the Unified Front of Junior Personnel (FUPS) of the Armed Forces (FFAA) and PNP [Peruvian National Police].

At a press conference yesterday morning they said that they were united around common principles and goals. "The FUPS of the FFAA and PNP has been born as a historic necessity in response to the long-standing demand and hope of all Peruvians in uniform to shatter once and for all the chains that bind us to a humiliating and increasingly degrading life." This is one of the points in the front's manifesto to the nation.

Wearing their distinctive branch uniforms, they said that their clandestine organization was founded on 5 March, "in homage to the glorious and honorable struggle of the mothers and wives of junior personnel, who established a historic and invaluable precedent and showed us the path of unity towards a decent, just life."

The representative of the Navy took the floor and spoke out against the abuses that officers have committed against lower-level personnel. "Our comrades are treated like cattle at the medical center. We do not enjoy the indispensable minimum in health care, in contrast to the officers, who receive specialized medical care. Moreover, we are speaking out to the public against the crooked activities of officers who have been tried and convicted by military justice and who are riding around Lima instead of serving their sentences. Junior personnel are the ones who suffer the consequences."

Later on, he talked about the shady deals involving navy vessels that have been decommissioned and sold to third parties, such as the Admirals Association, which transfer them to Ancon Bay, and that are ultimately dismantled in Chimbote. "The Comptroller's Office should investigate these shady deals, which harm the government," the Navy representative stated.

The representative of the police forces voiced his categorical opposition to the economic policy being pursued by President Fujimori, "with poverty wages that do not allow those who defend national sovereignty to lead a decent life, as their families have to take to the streets to demand fair pay from the government."

"We denounce the Machiavellian designs of the members of the Argos Plan, all of whom are high-ranking and who use the insignia of junior personnel to create chaos among our colleagues so as to destabilize the unity and cohesiveness of our members. We request the right to vote, to take part in the country's social and political life through suffrage. We also condemn the immoral acts and demand the immediate punishment of the corrupt individuals who are growing unduly rich by using and abusing the high ranks that they hold," said the spokesman during the clandestine press conference.

In conclusion, in a single voice they reaffirmed the imminent threat of a strike by the Armed Forces and police for this coming May in the event that their demands are not met, "because the salaries that we receive are totally insufficient, and we too are part of the people," was the closing remark by the spokesman of the new Unified Front of Junior Personnel of the FFAA and PNP, which is operating in the underground during this period of crisis besetting the country.

Photo Captions

1. p. 8: Wearing masks and the uniforms of their respective branches, they denounced the abuses committed by officers against them.

2. p. 8: EL CENTINELA is the new mouthpiece of the Front of Junior Personnel of the FFAA and PNP; it currently circulates in the underground.

* 'Persecution' in Navy Cited

91SM0337B Lima CAMBIO in Spanish
23 May 91 p 11

[Text]

Military Persecution

The strength that the Unified Front of Junior Personnel of the Armed Forces and Police is gaining has prompted the military high commands to take a number of reprisals against any member of a law-enforcement body (especially a sailor) who tries to avoid carrying out orders. Three seamen have been savagely tortured; two technicians have been arrested, and, strangely, a Navy officer was shot and killed during a military exercise.

Against this backdrop, there was an attempt at insubordination at the Los Cibeles Security Police barracks after officers demanded that the policemen wear their winter uniforms though they had not yet been distributed despite having been budgeted for. It was learned that the policemen reported to their commanders wearing torn, shabby uniforms, thus causing embarrassment among the officers, as a result of which there were strong exchanges of words.

Reprisals in the Navy

It became obvious last week that unrest among members of Peru's navy was growing increasingly intolerable. The mouthpiece CENTINELA continues to be distributed, to the delight of sailors. It is known that quarrels between junior personnel and officers are most intense on navy vessels, and even the sacrosanct lieutenants and ensigns have had to do cleanup work after subordinates refused to.

On one of the ships three seamen (selective service) were detained in the technicians' messroom with copies of CENTINELA in their possession, as were two technicians. The sailors were transferred to the Naval Intelligence Directorate, where they were tortured by a first lieutenant named Paulet. The technicians were not touched but were threatened.

Strangely enough, a Navy officer was also shot to death during an operational exercise. One of his colleagues reported that an officer with the Special Operations Forces (FOES) was the one who killed him. "The game is over, boy" was the last thing that the dead man heard before taking a bullet to the back. His strange death has not been explained, nor has an official communique even been released.

Meanwhile, applications to retire from the Navy, which have been filed en masse, have been suspended. The order was given by the director of intelligence, Rear Admiral Jorge Hesse Ramirez, who signed a communique addressed to all personnel, indicating that processing of applications for retirement has been suspended because otherwise, given the salaries they receive, the country was going to be left without sailors.

At the same time, other members of the Naval Intelligence Directorate (DIM) who have been closely tailing relatives of junior personnel have been identified. One of them, who is posing as a newsman, is nicknamed "Perro Flaco" [skinny dog]; the person filming a purported reception by the Welfare Directorate for mothers is known as "Chaquetin," and one dark-skinned man is known as "Cotito." They have all been clearly identified.

In conclusion, rumor has it that there may be a police work stoppage on the fourth anniversary of the biggest police strike in our history. To counter this, police high commands met last Monday with Interior Minister Victor Malca to hatch a sinister plan of repression that no longer frightens anyone.

Venezuela

Perez Shows Concern Over Drug Trafficking

PA2106034791 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Tomorrow at the Teresa Carreno Cultural Center, President Carlos Andres Perez will promulgate the international Geneva agreement against drug trafficking, which will permit more cooperation with other nations in the joint struggle against the threat posed by drugs.

In his radio program transmitted every Thursday, President Perez warned that drug trafficking has infiltrated all sectors of Venezuelan society, creating concern and alarm throughout the country. He deplored the fact that recently Venezuelans have received unpleasant news, which according to President Perez seems to be true. The situation has become more alarming, due to the presumed links of Adolfo Ramirez Torres, who has occupied high political positions, to drug trafficking activities.

President Perez said that the fact that Venezuela is being used as a bridge to transport the drugs to the large international markets is worrisome, as is the use and comsumption of drugs, which imperils the defense of Venezuelans and the country's future.

Tomorrow at 1000 at a solemn ceremony to be held at the Teresa Carreno Cultural Center, President Perez will make a commitment before the country, and will request the cooperation of all Venezuelans in the struggle against drug trafficking, the most vile and abominable crime threatening mankind. President Perez will also commit all of his government's efforts to the struggle against this scourge.

Regarding other scandals that could emerge, President Perez made it clear that there will be no favoritism and nothing will be kept secret.

We have learned that during tomorrow's ceremony, President Perez will stress the severity with which the national government will act against those who are found to be involved in drug trafficking, regardless of their political or social position.